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THE CARTOON HISTORY  
OF THE

# UNIVERSE

Volume 4  
PART OF THE  
OLD TESTAMENT

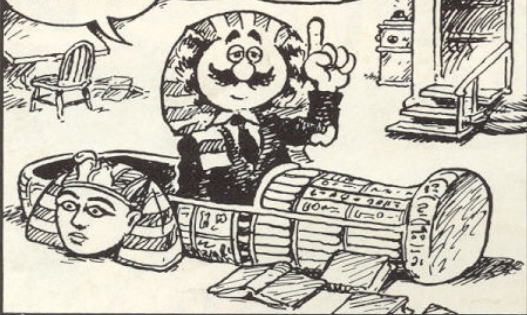
1400-586, B.C.



Jonick



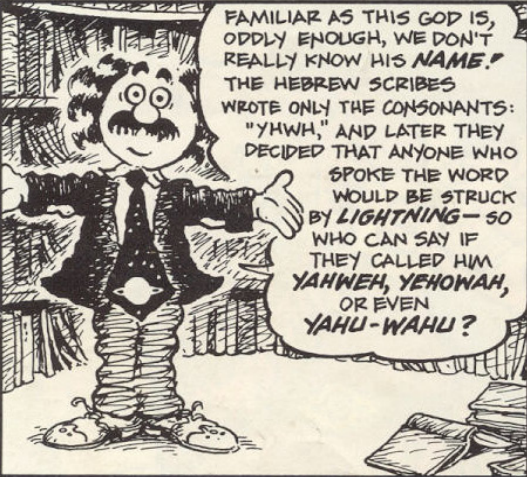
IN THE LAST VOLUME, THE TIME MACHINE SHOWED US THE EARLY CIVILIZATIONS OF SUMER AND EGYPT, AND WE NOTED SOME NOMADS MOVING BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN THE TWO.\*



NOW WE'LL SEE WHAT HAPPENED TO THESE TRIBES WHEN THEY ESCAPED FROM EGYPT AND BEGAN TO WORSHIP A GOD WHO, DESPITE SOME EARLY SETBACKS, HAS HAD **QUITE** A SUCCESSFUL CAREER.\*



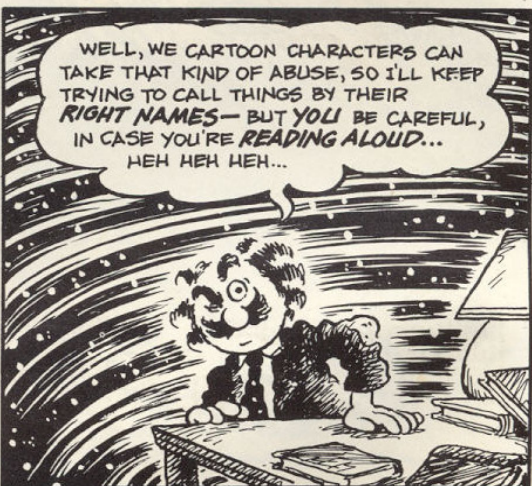
FAMILIAR AS THIS GOD IS, ODDLY ENOUGH, WE DON'T REALLY KNOW HIS **NAME**.\* THE HEBREW SCRIBES WROTE ONLY THE CONSONANTS: "YHWH," AND LATER THEY DECIDED THAT ANYONE WHO SPOKE THE WORD WOULD BE STRUCK BY **LIGHTNING**—SO WHO CAN SAY IF THEY CALLED HIM **YAHWEH, YEHOWAH, OR EVEN YAHU-WAHU?**



MOAN!  
THE THINGS YOU GOTTA PUT UP WITH IN THIS BUSINESS...



WELL, WE CARTOON CHARACTERS CAN TAKE THAT KIND OF ABUSE, SO I'LL KEEP TRYING TO CALL THINGS BY THEIR **RIGHT NAMES**—BUT **YOU** BE CAREFUL, IN CASE YOU'RE **READING ALOUD**...  
HEH HEH HEH...





# THE CARTOON HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSE

VOLUME 4

PART  
OF THE

## OLD TESTAMENT

BY

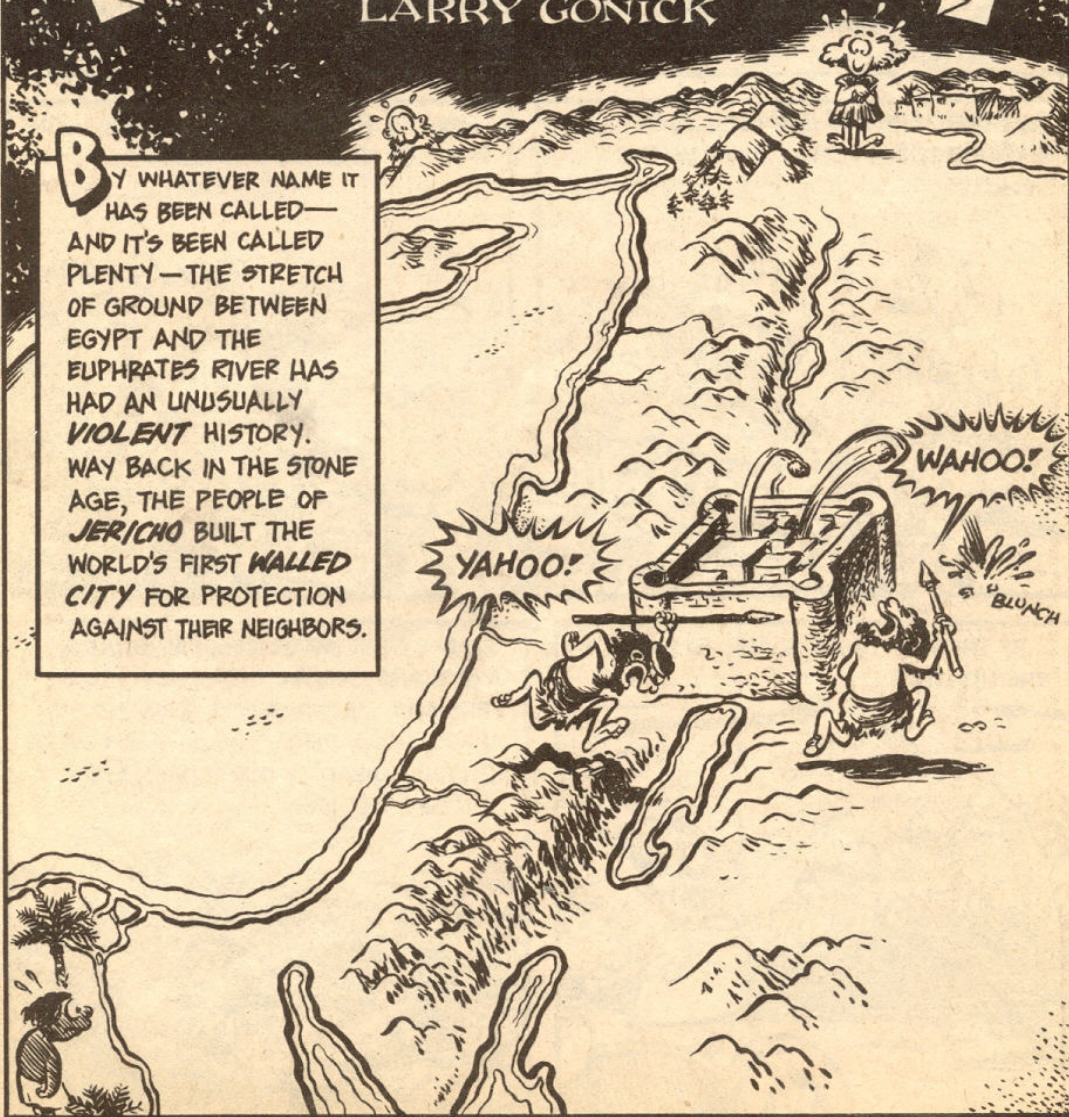
LARRY GONICK

**B**Y WHATEVER NAME IT HAS BEEN CALLED—AND IT'S BEEN CALLED PLENTY—THE STRETCH OF GROUND BETWEEN EGYPT AND THE EUPHRATES RIVER HAS HAD AN UNUSUALLY **VIOLENT** HISTORY. WAY BACK IN THE STONE AGE, THE PEOPLE OF **JERICHO** BUILT THE WORLD'S FIRST **WALLED CITY** FOR PROTECTION AGAINST THEIR NEIGHBORS.

YAHOO!

WAHOO!

BLUNCH





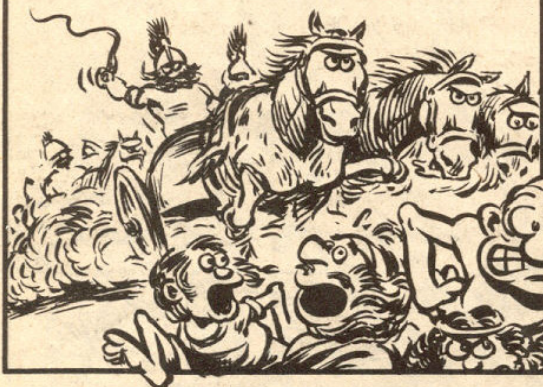
LATER, THE LAND WAS INVADED BY THE SUMERIANS, WHO WANTED TIMBER FROM THE CEDARS OF LEBANON...



...BY THE EGYPTIANS, FOR THE COPPER AND TURQUOISE IN THE SINAI...



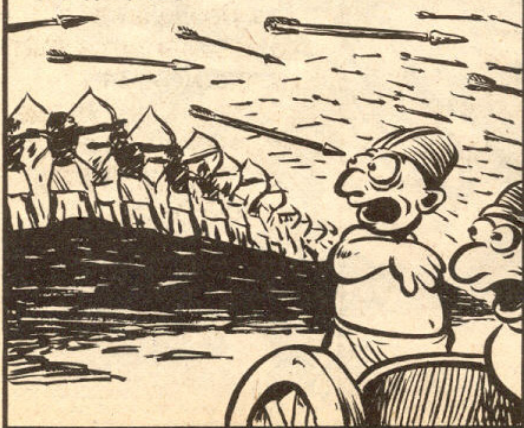
...BY THE "HYKSOS," (SEE VOL. 3) JUST BECAUSE IT HAPPENED TO BE IN THE WAY...



...BY THE HITTITES, WHO WANTED CONTROL OF THE TRADE ROUTES...



...BY THE EGYPTIANS AGAIN, TO EXPEL THE HITTITES...

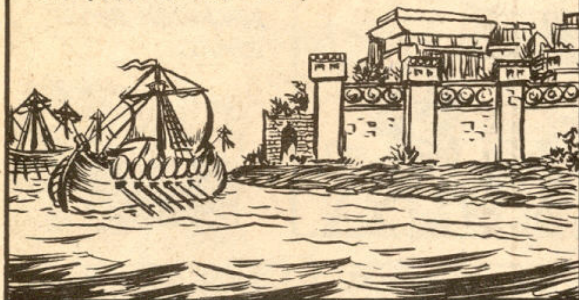


...AND BY THE ISRAELITES, PHILISTINES, ASSYRIANS, BABYLONIANS, SCYTHIANS, PERSIANS, MACEDONIANS, ROMANS, ARABS, CRUSADERS, TURKS — BUT WE'RE GETTING AHEAD OF OURSELVES, AND YOU GET THE IDEA ...

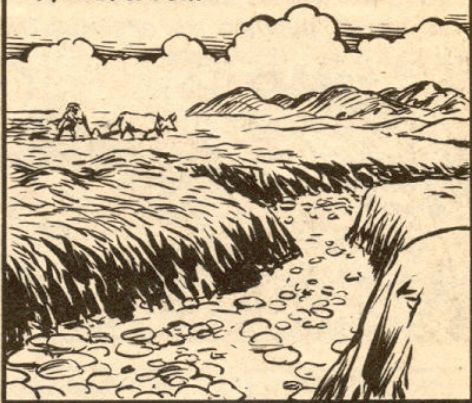




THEN AS NOW, THE COUNTRY'S LANDSCAPE WAS UNUSUALLY VARIED. ON THE COAST WERE INDEPENDENT CITIES, CENTERS OF TRADE AND SOURCE OF THE PRECIOUS **PURPLE DYE** THAT GAVE THE LAND ONE OF ITS NAMES, **CANAAN** (= "LAND OF PURPLE" IN UGARITIC).



NEXT COMES THE COASTAL PLAIN, PLOWED BY FARMERS AND CUT BY GULCHES...



...WHICH CARRY THE RUN-OFF FROM THE MOUNTAINS, WHERE NOMADS AND VILLAGERS COEXISTED...



FURTHER INLAND, THE HILLS GET WILDER UNTIL THEY DROP OFF TO THE DEEP, STEEP VALLEY OF THE JORDAN RIVER, THE DEAD SEA, AND THE OASIS OF JERICHO, 1300 FEET BELOW SEA LEVEL.



BEYOND JORDAN, THE LAND RISES AGAIN, FINALLY LEVELLING OFF IN THE ARABIAN PLATEAU.



WHEN THEY WEREN'T BEING INVADED, THE PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT PARTS OF CANAAN WOULD FIGHT WITH **EACH OTHER.**



FOR NOW, WE'RE CONCERNED WITH PART OF THE NOMADIC GROUP KNOWN AS THE **HEBREWS**, SO GET SET—IT'S A PRETTY VIOLENT TALE...



BEYOND A CERTAIN POINT, HEBREW ORIGINS ARE LOST IN THE MISTY PAST. THEN **ABRAHAM**, HIS WIFE **SARAH**, HIS NEPHEW **LOT**, AND THEIR SERVANTS AND FLOCKS EMERGED FROM **UR** IN SUMER, HEADING FOR GREENER PASTURES IN CANAAN.



ONCE THEY ARRIVED, IT'S SAID, ABRAHAM AND LOT FATHERED MANY TRIBES ✱. WE'LL SKIP THE DETAILS AND JUST MENTION THAT ABRAHAM BEGAT **ISAAC**...



ISAAC BEGAT **JACOB**...



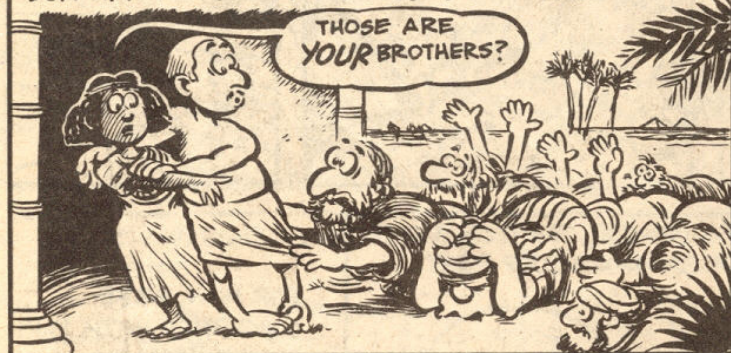
...WHO CHANGED HIS NAME TO **ISRAEL** ("POWER WITH GOD") AFTER WRESTLING WITH AN ANGEL IN A LATE-NIGHT ANXIETY ATTACK.



JACOB BEGAT THE **TWELVE SONS OF ISRAEL**...



...ONE OF WHOM, **JOSEPH**, ENDED UP IN EGYPT WITH AN EGYPTIAN WIFE AND AN **EXCELLENT** GOVERNMENT JOB.



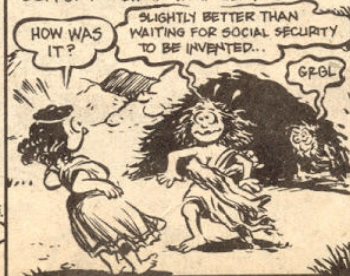
DURING HARD TIMES IN CANAAN, JOSEPH OFFERED HIS KIN SOME GOOD LAND IN THE EGYPTIAN DISTRICT OF **GOSHEN**, AND THERE THEY SETTLED HAPPILY, UNTIL, SOMETIME AFTER JOSEPH'S DEATH, THEY WERE **ENSLAVED**. SO SAYS THE BOOK OF **GENESIS**.



LOSING HIS WIFE WHEN SODOM WENT UP IN SMOKE, LOT AND HIS DAUGHTERS FLED TO THE LONELY HILLS ABOVE THE DEAD SEA. THERE, WITHOUT ANY ELIGIBLE HUSBANDS, THE GIRLS GOT THEIR FATHER DEAD DRUNK AND SEDUCED HIM ONE BY ONE.



THEY WERE TRYING TO GET CHILDREN TO SUPPORT THEM IN THEIR OLD AGE.




THE RESULT WAS TWO BOYS NAMED MOAB AND BEN-AMMI, SAID TO BE THE ANCESTORS OF THE **MOABITES** AND **AMMONITES**, TWO TRIBES WHICH MUST HAVE HAD SOME CONFUSING RELATIONSHIPS.





# DOUBLE EXODUS


A FEW THINGS THE BIBLE *DOESN'T* MENTION ALSO HELP TO UNDERSTAND MATTERS:

- 
- 1) THERE WERE PLENTY OF OTHER SLAVES IN EGYPT, TOO.
  - 2) MOST OF CANAAN WAS UNDER EGYPTIAN RULE, AND SOME PEOPLE THERE WERE STIRRING UP TROUBLE.
  - 3) THERE WERE ALMOST CERTAINLY SOME WELL-TO-DO SEMITES IN EGYPT, MARRIED TO EGYPTIANS AND OTHER-WISE "ASSIMILATED."

IT MAY HAVE BEEN FROM THIS CLASS THAT **MOSES**, THE LIBERATOR, CAME.

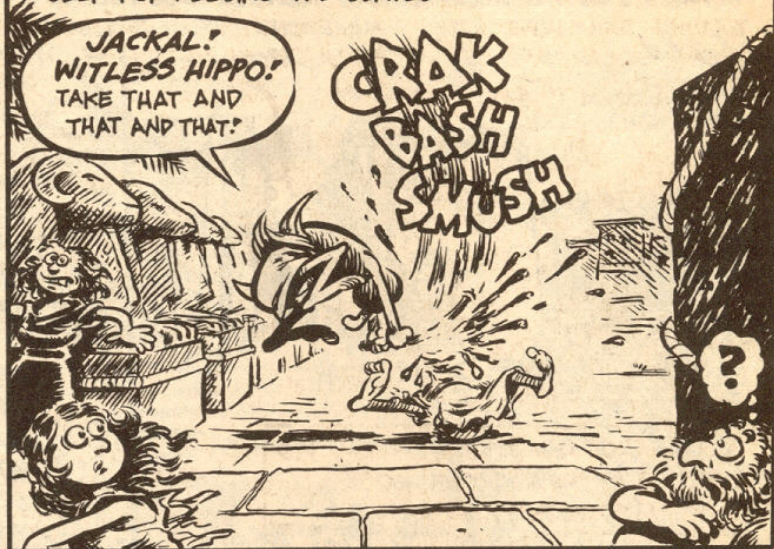
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT!  
WHAT'S HE CRYING ABOUT?



WE MAY WELL DOUBT THE STORY OF MOSES' BIRTH , BUT THIS MUCH SEEMS CERTAIN: "MOSES" IS AN EGYPTIAN NAME; MOSES WAS RAISED IN COURT AS AN EGYPTIAN; AND HE MUST HAVE HAD FORMAL, "COOL" EGYPTIAN MANNERS. LET'S IMAGINE HIM, THEN, AS **HALF EGYPTIAN**, A BIT OF A LONER, WITH A LOT OF RE-PRESSED ANGER, WHICH HE COULDN'T ALWAYS CONTROL.



IN THE FIRST REPORTED EPISODE OF HIS ADULT LIFE, MOSES THREW A TANTRUM AND **MURDERED** AN OVER-SEER FOR ABUSING THE SLAVES.



HE SKIPPED THE COUNTRY AND TOOK REFUGE WITH **JETHRO**, A MIDIANITE CHIEF IN THE SINAI.

AN EGYPTIAN PRINCE?

UH, ACTUALLY, I'M HALF HEBREW...

BLESS ME? SO AM I!



JETHRO MUST HAVE FILLED THE FUGITIVE IN ON LOCAL HISTORY, POLITICS, AND RELIGION—INCLUDING HIS OWN ROOTS!

IT IS SAID—HE WHO WIELDS THIS **BRAZEN SERPENT** WILL FREE THE PEOPLE OF ABRAHAM!



JETHRO ALSO GAVE MOSES HIS DAUGHTER **ZIPPORAH**.

WOW! A REAL EGYPTIAN PRINCE!

TH' SHAME OF IT! ME AND THIS NOMAD SHE-CAMEL... SIGH...



WE'VE ALL HEARD HOW THE BABY MOSES WAS CAST ADRIFT ON THE Nile, BUT BEFORE BELIEVING IT, WE SHOULD CONSIDER THAT THE ABANDONED-BABY-WHO-BECOMES-KING THEME ALSO APPEARS IN THE LIVES OF SARGON OF AKKAD, OEDIPUS REX, CYRUS OF PERSIA, ROMULUS+REMUUS, AND OTHERS. MANY SCHOLARS BELIEVE THE STORY WAS INVENTED BY "OFFICIAL BIOGRAPHERS" TO GIVE THESE PRINCES THE RIGHT PARENTS.

THUS, IF MOSES WERE ACTUALLY AN **EGYPTIAN**, THE **BULRUSHES** STORY SERVES TO MAKE HIM **POUF PUF** AN **HONORARY HEBREW!**

BUT REALLY IT'S JUST SO MUCH **BULRUSH**, MIGHT ONE SAY?



ON THE OTHER HAND, IT'S TRUE THAT PEOPLE OFTEN EXPOSED UNWANTED BABIES IN THOSE DAYS, SO WHO KNOWS?

'BYE, SON!' HAVE A NICE TIME IN THE **PALACE!**

YOU WON'T FORGET WHO GAVE YOU YOUR FIRST BIG **BREAK?**





WHILE PONDERING THE SITUATION, MOSES HAD A VISION: A **BURNING BUSH** TOLD HIM TO GO HOME AND FREE THE SLAVES."

JUST SAY THAT **I AM** SENT YOU."

B-BUT I CAN BARELY SPEAK HEBREW!"

I GET AN INTERPRETER...

LIKE JACOB BEFORE HIM, MOSES HAD A BAD ANXIETY ATTACK THE NIGHT BEFORE ARRIVING. IN A FRENZY, HE MADE ZIP-PORAH **CIRCUMCISE THEIR SON.**

IT'S AN OLD EGYPTIAN CUSTOM."

AT THIS HOUR?

CAME THE DAWN, HE CONTACTED **AARON** AND **MIRIAM**, THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS OF THE ISRAELITES.

WHO SENT YOU?

**OH, HE** ("YA-KUWA") DID?"

AND A TIP O' THE HIPPO TO OL' MARTIN-BUBBER.

WHILE AARON AND MIRIAM SPREAD HIS MESSAGE TO THEIR PEOPLE, MOSES NEGOTIATED WITH PHARAOH.

SEE THESE FROGS? THESE ARE **YAHU'S** FROGS."

AS THE TALKS DRAGGED ON, THE SLAVES WENT ON A **LOOTING SPREE.**

FINALLY, PHARAOH GAVE IN, AND A "MIXED MULTITUDE," HEADED BY MOSES, THE ISRAELITE PRIESTS, AND **JOSEPH'S MUMMY**, ESCAPED IN THE NIGHT.

THEY DITCHED SOME EGYPTIAN TROOPS IN A MARSHY TIDELAND, AND MIRIAM LED THE WOMEN IN SONG.

"SING YE UNTO YA-KUWA... ♪  
THE HORSE AND ITS RIDER  
HATH HE THROWN INTO THE  
SEA..."



THEY WERE FREE - TO WANDER A WEIRD WILDERNESS WITHOUT FOOD, WATER, OR FRIENDS. (ONE DESERT TRIBE, THE **AMALEKITES**, WAS **ETERNALLY CURSED** FOR THEIR RAIDS AT THIS TIME.)



BUT MOSES' STINT IN MIDIAN HADN'T BEEN WASTED. HE KNEW ABOUT SECRET SPRINGS AND ODD EDIBLES LIKE **MANNA**, THE SECRETION OF A DESERT INSECT.

BLECH!  
BUG POOP?

I LONG FOR THE  
FLESHPOTS OF  
EGYPT!\*

I KNOW "FLESHPOTS" SOUNDS SEXY, BUT IT JUST MEANS A KETTLE OF STEW...

KETTLE OF STEW  
SOUNDS PRETTY  
SEXY RIGHT NOW!



TEMPERS BEGAN RUNNING SHORT, AND MOSES HAD HIS HANDS FULL JUDGING DISPUTES, WHEN **JETHRO**, HIS FATHER-IN-LAW, ARRIVED AND SUGGESTED:

SON-IN-LAW, THIS IS TOO MUCH FOR ONE MAN! YOU NEED **LAW'S**... JUDGES... MAYBE EVEN LAWYERS... YOU NEED TIME FOR YOUR FAMILY... ZIPPORAH IS MISERABLE...

LAW'S?  
WHAT **LAW'S**?



OH, THE USUAL STUFF... "THOU SHALT NOT KILL..." THAT'S BIG WITH US MIDIANITES...

HM...  
'COURSE I AL-  
READY **BROKE**  
THAT ONE - BUT  
TELL ME MORE...



SO, ONE WILD AND STORMY DAY, MOSES ASSEMBLED THE PEOPLE BEFORE THE MOUNTAIN OF GOD...



THAT YE MAY  
KNOW THE FEAR  
OF YAHUWA.\*

THEN HE SCALED THE PEAK TO GET THE LAWS DIRECTLY FROM THE LORD'S MOUTH!



YAHU!  
I AM HERE!

HE'S SLIPPED  
HIS SQUIFF!



MOSES WAS GONE FOR THE LONGEST TIME, BEING SOMETHING OF A PERFECTIONIST.

C'MON, LORD, LET'S TRY AND HOLD IT TO TEN—I CAN ONLY CARRY SO MUCH STONE!

# CRACK-ARUMBLE

MANY BIBLICAL SCHOLARS SEE THIS ASSEMBLY BEFORE THE MOUNT AS THE MOMENT WHEN **ALL ISRAEL** BEHELD AND FEARED THE GOD OF MOSES...

YET THEY WERE ALREADY WOR-  
SHIPPING **ANOTHER**

**GOD**—A GOLDEN CALF—BY THE TIME HE GOT BACK. HOW IMPRESSED COULD THEY HAVE BEEN?

HMM... "THOU SHALT NOT KILL?" PERHAPS I'VE BEEN HASTY...



O APIS, SAVE US FROM "MOUNTAIN MAN!"



MOSES SMASHED THE TABLETS, ASKED EVERYONE LOYAL TO **YAHUWA** TO STAND BY HIM, AND THEN ORDERED THE SLAUGHTER OF THE CALF-WORSHIPPERS!



**NOW THEY WERE IMPRESSED!!**





ON MOSES' SIDE, LET'S JUST SAY THAT HIS PEOPLE WERE IN A DESPERATE SPOT, AND HE CLEARLY SAW A NEED FOR **UNITY** AT ANY COST.

HEY...DIVISION COULD BE FATAL...EVEN **MORE** FATAL, THAT IS...



AFTER THE MASSACRE, MOSES WORKED UP A FRESH CODE OF LAWS.

GREAT FOR THE LEG MUSCLES, THIS LAWGIVING...



ON THE THEME OF UNITY WAS THE **FIRST COMMANDMENT**: ALL MUST FOLLOW YAHUWA AS THEIR FIRST—AND MAYBE EVEN THEIR **ONLY**—GOD. AND **NO IMAGES** TO CONFUSE THE ISSUE?

IT SEZ: "NO GODS **BEFORE** ME"—BUT WHAT ABOUT **AFTER** HIM, HAH?

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT!



GOD'S MINISTERS WOULD BE THE **LEVITES**, THOSE WHO HAD STOOD BY MOSES AGAINST THE CALF-WORSHIPERS. HIS **CHOSEN PEOPLE** WERE THE ISRAELITES, THE OTHERS AMONG THEM—ETHIOPIANS, EGYPTIANS, CANAANITES, ETC.—WERE EXCLUDED FROM THE CONGREGATION, THOUGH STILL SUBJECT TO ITS LAWS.

SLAVES OF SLAVES? HOW HUMILIATIN'!



ASIDE FROM THE USUAL LAWS AGAINST WAR AND MURDER, THERE WERE ENDLESS RULES ABOUT DIET\*, THE SABBATH, AND RITUAL DETAILS.

OKAY—YOU'VE GOT THE "WAVE OFFERING" DOWN—NOW WE MOVE ON TO THE "HEAVE OFFERING..."



THE MOST SERIOUS CRIMES WERE PUNISHED BY STONING TO DEATH.

WOT DID THAT ONE DO?

ER—CRITICIZED, UM, AH, YOU-KNOW—HUWA...



LESS DANGEROUS OFFENDERS MIGHT JUST BE PUT **OUTSIDE CAMP** FOR A TIME, LIKE **MIRIAM**, WHEN SHE DENOUNCED MOSES FOR TAKING AN ETHIOPIAN WIFE...



AFTER THE EXODUS, MOSES APPARENTLY

KEPT THE EGYPTIAN OBSESSION WITH **CLEANLINESS**. AMONG HIS OTHER LAWS ARE LONG LISTS OF "UNCLEAN" MEATS, BIRDS, AND SEAFOOD, WHICH THE ORTHODOX WILL NOT TOUCH TO THIS DAY!



THOU SHALT EAT NO OWL!

THANKS, LORD!

THIS MAY HAVE PUT A CRIMP IN THE MODERN NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT...

I'LL MAKE YOU EAT CROW!

YOU'LL EAT YOUR WORDS!

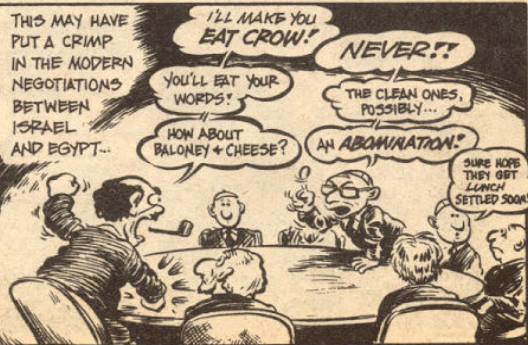
HOW ABOUT BALONEY + CHEESE?

NEVER!!

THE CLEAN ONES, POSSIBLY...

AN ABOMINATION!

SURE HOPE THEY GET LUNCH SETTLED SOON!





SO—ON TO THE **PROMISED LAND—CANAAN**. SOME SPIES WERE SENT TO CHECK IT OUT, AND THEIR REPORT WAS MOST DISCOURAGING.

FIRST OF ALL, IT'S FULL OF PEOPLE."

AND THEY'RE ABOUT 12 FEET TALL."

TO ME THEY LOOK 14 FEET TALL."

THEY HAVE IRON CHARIOTS!"

AND HUGE WALLED CITIES."



THE DEBATE WAS SHORT AND ONE-SIDED.

WITH YAHU'S HELP, WE CAN TAKE 'EM."

**STONE HIM!**



SO MOSES, FUMING, TOOK THEM BACK TO AN OASIS IN THE WILDERNESS, WHERE THEY REMAINED SOME 40 YEARS, UNTIL MOST OF THE OLDER GENERATION, INCLUDING MIRIAM AND AARON, HAD DIED.



MEANWHILE, THE YOUNGSTERS, LED BY MOSES' PROTEGE JOSHUA, BEGAN RAIDING SOME NEIGHBORING TRIBES AND BUILDING ALLIANCES WITH OTHERS. BY MOSES' DOTAAGE, THEY HAD BECOME A FEARSOME ARMY.



WITH CANAAN IN VIEW ACROSS THE JORDAN, THE AGED LEADER WENT UP FOR A FEW LAST CURSES...

"A PERVERSE AND CROOKED GENERATION... SHALL BE BURNT WITH HUNGER AND DEVoured WITH BURNING HEAT... THE SWORD WITHOUT AND TERROR WITHIN SHALL DESTROY THE YOUNG MAN AND THE VIRGIN, THE SUCKLING AND THE MAN WITH GRAY HAIR... I WILL MAKE MINE ARROWS DRUNK WITH BLOOD AND MY SWORD SHALL DEVOUR FLESH...? HACK? -KAF? WHEEEZE..."



WITHOUT A DOUBT, THIS MAN'S IDEAS AND PERSONALITY HAVE LEFT THEIR MARK ON HISTORY.

KOF **BATTLE**  
CROAK  
**THUD**





THE HEBREWS STRUCK FIRST AT **JERICO**, AN EASY TARGET BECAUSE ITS ANCIENT WALLS WERE NEARLY RUINED AND HARDLY ANYONE WAS LIVING THERE AT THE TIME (OR SO ARCHAEOLOGISTS HAVE FOUND).



TO MANY ON BOTH SIDES, THIS VICTORY SEEMED **MIRACULOUS** ✿.

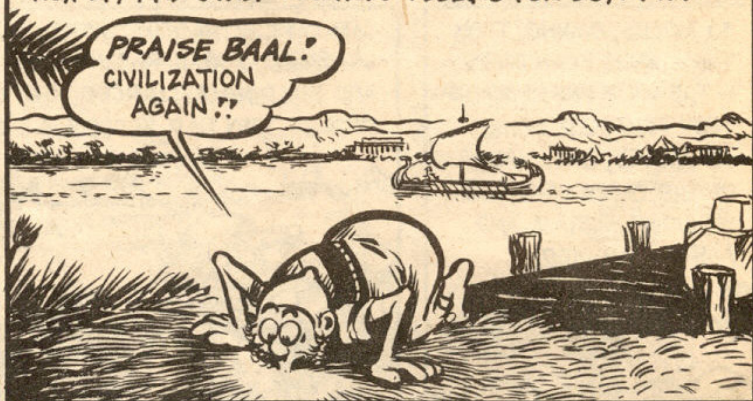
THE DAY THE SUN STANDS STILL, THAT'S THE DAY THE HEBREWS TAKE ANYTHING!



TO MAKE A LONG STORY (THE BOOK OF **JOSHUA**) SHORT, THE INVADERS WENT ON TO KNOCK OVER ONE CITY AFTER ANOTHER, PUTTING MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN TO THE SWORD, AND BURNING UP AS MUCH OF CANAANITE CULTURE AS THEY COULD...



AND SO THERE WAS A **SECOND EXODUS** — OF CANAANITE ROYALTY AND OTHER FUGITIVES FLEEING FOR EGYPT ???



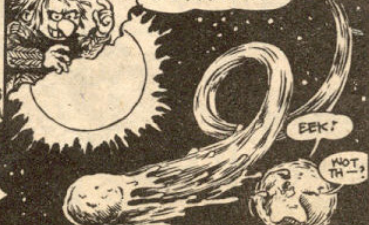
WHEN IT WAS ALL OVER, THE ISRAELITES BURIED JOSEPH'S MUMMY, DIVIDED THEMSELVES BY TRIBES, AND WENT TO LIVE IN THE EMPTY CITIES.



A FEW MODERNS, SEEING

TRUTH IN BOTH SCIENCE-AND SCRIP- TURE, HAVE SOUGHT TO EXPLAIN OLD TESTAMENT MIRACLES AS EVERYTHING FROM VOLCANOES AND TIDAL WAVES TO BIZARRE ASTRO- NOMICAL EVENTS...

THE COMET VENUS SWEEP BY THE EARTH, REVERSED OUR ROTATION, RAINED DOWN A FEW **PETRO- LEUM DEPOSITS**, AND THEN BECAME A PLANET.\*\*\*



\*\*\*A TINY PORTION OF THE THEORIES OF IMMANUEL VELIKOVSKY

THERE ARE PROBABLY A FEW OF THESE NUTS ON EVERY PLANET!

BEHOLD, JUPITEREANS! MORE PROOF THAT OUR PLANET IS **ROUND**!

DON'T EVEN LOOK, MY CLONE! IT'S JUST ANOTHER CHARIOT OF THE GODS!

YES, MOTHER!







YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED BY NOW THAT THE TIME MACHINE HAS BEEN PRETTY VAGUE ABOUT THE EXACT **DATE** OF THESE EVENTS? IT WOULD BE NICE IF WE COULD TIE THE EXODUS IN WITH KNOWN EGYPTIAN HISTORY, BUT THAT'S NOT SO EASY, I'M SORRY TO SAY!



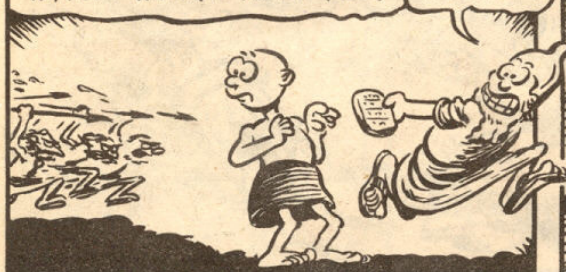
THE BEST EVIDENCE, SO FAR, POSSIBLY ARE THE SO-CALLED **AMARNA LETTERS**, WRITTEN BY VARIOUS PRINCES TO THE PHaraohs AMENHOTEP III AND IV, AND UNEARTHED IN THE 1880's!

I QUOTE:



"THE KING'S WHOLE LAND, WHICH HAS BEGUN HOSTILITIES WITH ME, WILL BE LOST. BEHOLD THE TERRITORY OF SEIR AS FAR AS CARMEL: ITS PRINCES ARE WHOLLY LOST... NOW THE **HABIRI** ARE OCCUPYING THE KING'S CITIES... LET THE KING TAKE CARE OF HIS LAND...AND SEND TROOPS... IF NO TROOPS COME IN THE YEAR, THE WHOLE TERRITORY OF MY LORD THE KING WILL PERISH!"

HERE—TAKE A LETTER!



IF WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE SAME THING, THIS PUTS THE HEBREW CONQUEST IN THE REIGN OF **AMENHOTEP IV**, AROUND **1380-1360, B.C.** THE EXODUS, BY THE BIBLE'S ACCOUNT, WAS SOME 40 YEARS EARLIER, SAY IN 1420 OR SO!



BUT IF YOU SAW VOL. 3, YOU'LL RECALL THAT AMENHOTEP IV WAS THE SAME AS **AKHENATON**, THE HERETIC PHARAOH, WHO BELIEVED THERE WAS ONLY **ONE GOD**."

SO—IS THIS A COINCIDENCE? OR DID AKHENATON **INFLUENCE** MOSES? OR VICE VERSA? OR DID THEY "DRINK FROM THE SAME WELL?" WASN'T THE EGYPTIAN COURT OF THE TIME CRAWLING WITH FOREIGNERS AND THEIR FOREIGN IDEAS? MAYBE NEPHERITI HERSELF...?

THEN THERE'S THE QUESTION OF HOW MUCH OF THE BIBLE ITSELF TO BELIEVE—BUT I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO THAT RIGHT NOW, **BELIEVE** ME!

ONWARD!





# JUDGMENT DAYS

OF COURSE, THE ISRAELITES DIDN'T REALLY KILL **ALL** THE NATIVES, SO THEY ENDED UP LIVING AMONG MANY SURVIVING CANAANITES, JEBUSITES, HORITES, ETC., ETC... THIS CAUSED A CERTAIN **TENSION**...



ESPECIALLY SINCE THE ISRAELITES, AS FORMER OUTCASTS AND SLAVES, **REJECTED** SO MANY LOCAL INSTITUTIONS, LIKE IDOLATRY, ART, PERSONAL WEALTH, HORSES AND CHARIOTS — IN THEORY, AT LEAST. IN PRACTICE, THEY WERE NEVER 100% STRICT.



BUT THEY DEFINITELY FROWNED ON **KINGS**. WHEN ISRAEL WAS LED BY ANYONE, IT WAS SOMEONE WHO SHOWED UNCOMMON **JUDGMENT** IN A CRISIS... SO THESE LEADERS ARE CALLED THE **JUDGES**.



...LIKE **DEBORAH**, A FREE-LANCE SINGER AND PROPHET WHO USED TO HOLD COURT UNDER A PALM TREE.



WITH ISRAEL UNDER ATTACK BY THE CANAANITES, DEBORAH URGED **BARAK**, A FIGHTING MAN, TO CALL OUT THE TROOPS.

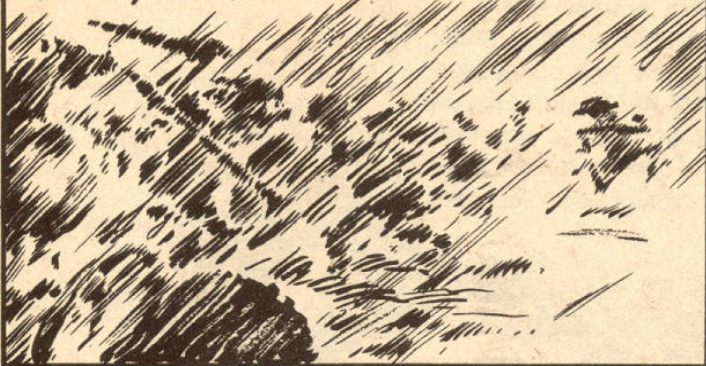


SINCE BARAK DIDN'T TRUST HIS OWN **JUDGMENT**, DEBORAH WENT ALONG AND LED THE ARMY WITH HIM.





THE DETAILS ARE LOST, BUT APPARENTLY IT RAINED AND THE CANAANITE CHARIOTS GOT STUCK IN THE MUD. AS THE ISRAELITES SWEEP OVER THEM, THE ENEMY GENERAL, **SISERA**, FLED ON FOOT.



AS HE PASSED A NOMAD'S TENT, A WOMAN BECKONED **SISERA** INSIDE.



SHE GAVE HIM SOME MILK AND SET HIM AT EASE.

MY NAME'S **Jael** (=GOD-GOD) WHAT'S YOURS?

**SISERA** - Z-ZZ..

I THOUGHT SO.



THEN SHE DROVE A TENT PEG THROUGH HIS HEAD?



THIS EPISODE IS RENDERED POETICALLY IN THE **SONG OF DEBORAH** (JUDGES 5), THOUGHT TO BE THE OLDEST PASSAGE IN THE BIBLE, AND ONE OF A FEW IN WHICH THE WOMEN ARE SOMETHING BESIDES VICTIMS OR VILLAINS.

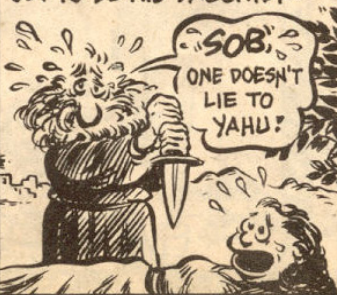
"THE MOTHER OF **SISERA** LOOKED OUT AT A WINDOW AND CRIED..." WHY IS HIS CHARIOT SO LONG IN COMING...?" ETC. ETC.



I WISH WE HAD MORE SPACE FOR THE JUDGES, LIKE **EHUD**, THE LEFT-HANDED, WHO ASSASSINATED EGLON, A MOABITE TYRANT SO FAT THAT EHUD COULDN'T PULL OUT HIS SWORD...



OR **JEPHTHAH**, WHO SWORE IF GOD GAVE HIM VICTORY, HE'D SACRIFICE **THE FIRST THING HE SAW** WHEN HE GOT HOME. TURNED OUT TO BE HIS DAUGHTER.



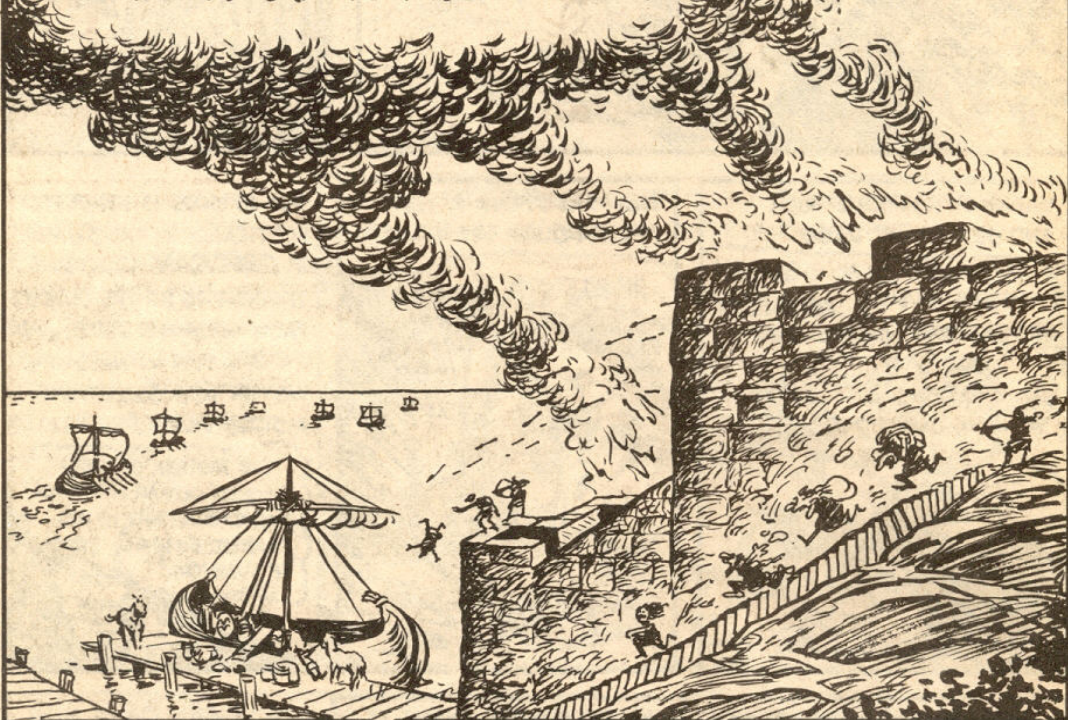
THERE'S NO SAYING HOW LONG THIS WILD AND PRIMITIVE STATE OF AFFAIRS MIGHT HAVE GONE ON, IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR SOME PROBLEMS OVER IN **GREECE**.



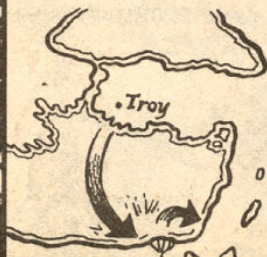


# HERE COME THE PHILISTINES!

BRIEFLY, THE GREEKS SHARED IN THE GENERAL COLLAPSE OF MEDITERRANEAN CIVILIZATION WHICH TOOK PLACE IN THE 1200'S, B.C. INVADING FROM THE NORTH AND HURT BY A DROP IN TRADE, GREEK SHIPPERS TURNED TO PIRACY AND WAR, CLIMAXING WITH THE 10-YEAR *TROJAN WAR*, WHICH INVOLVED—AND RUINED—MOST OF GREECE AND ITS NEIGHBORS. WHOLE TRIBES TOOK TO THE SEA, AMONG THEM THE *PHILISTINES* (MORE DETAILS NEXT VOLUME!).



DURING THE REIGN OF RAMSES III, THE PHILISTINES ATTACKED EGYPT AND WERE REPULSED IN A SERIES OF GREAT SEA BATTLES.



THEY REBOUNDED TO THE COAST OF *CANAAN*, EVERY BIT AS DESPERATE AS ISRAEL, BUT BETTER EQUIPPED, WITH CHARIOTS AND IRON.



IMMEDIATELY THEY BEGAN TO CONQUER THE COASTAL PLAIN, MUCH TO THE ALARM OF THE NATIVES!

THEY HAVE  
**IRON!**  
**IRON!**

NO WONDER  
THEIR CLOTHES  
ARE ALWAYS  
SO NEAT.





THE FIRST TIME THAT ISRAEL FOUGHT THE PHILISTINES, ISRAEL WAS ROUNDLY TROUNCED.



SO THE HEBREW ELDERS DECIDED TO BRING OUT THEIR **SECRET WEAPON**:

**THE ARK OF THE COVENANT!**



THE ARK OF THE COVENANT WAS ISRAEL'S MOST SACRED OBJECT. A MASSIVE, ORNATE WOODEN CHEST THAT HAD BEEN WITH JOSHUA AT JERICO, IT HELD THE LAWS OF MOSES AND MAY EVEN HAVE CARRIED JOSEPH'S MUMMY. THE TROOPS CHEERED —

**YAHU!**



NEVERTHELESS, WHEN THE BATTLE WAS OVER, THE PHILISTINES HAD THE ARK!

**GRUNT!**

BY DAGON, THAT'S HEAVY...

SLOW DOWN SLOW DOWN SLOW DOWN



THIS IS WHY "PHILISTINE" MEANS SOME-ONE TO WHOM NOTHING IS SACRED.



ANYWAY, WHEN THE PHILISTINES GOT HOME TO ASHDOD, SOME OF THEM WERE STRICKEN WITH **HEMORRHOIDS**.

**SCREECH!?**

YOU TOO?

I TOLD YOU THAT ARK WAS TOO HEAVY!?





THEY CONSULTED **THEIR** ELDER.

YOU HAVE OFFENDED THEIR GOD AND THIS IS YOUR PUNISHMENT!

AND THE CURE?

SAID THE ELDER: MAKE 5 GOLDEN HEMORRHOIDS AND 5 GOLDEN MICE (THERE WAS A PLAGUE OF MICE, TOO.) AS AN OFFERING TO THE GOD OF ISRAEL.

HOW MUCH LONGER, GOLD-SMITH?

THIS PROVES FORESIGHT IS BETTER THAN HINDSIGHT.

THESE WERE SENT BACK WITH THE ARK ON A CART DRAWN BY THE FINEST COWS.

THE OVERJOYED HEBREW PRIESTS SLAUGHTERED THE ANIMALS, BROKE THE CART INTO FIREWOOD, AND MADE A BURNT OFFERING ATOP A LARGE ROCK. ❁

THE BIBLE DOESN'T SAY IF THIS SOLVED THE PHILISTINES' PROBLEMS, BUT IT DIDN'T SOLVE ISRAEL'S. DESPITE THE RETURN OF THE ARK, ISRAEL REMAINED UNDER PHILISTINE RULE FOR THE NEXT 20 YEARS, UNTIL THE EMERGENCE OF **SAMUEL**, THE LAST JUDGE AND MAKER OF KINGS...

THE RELIGIOUS PRACTICE OF **ANIMAL SACRIFICE** MAY HAVE BEGUN WHEN PRIESTS FIRST TURNED PROFESSIONAL: TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE GODS, YOU BROUGHT A SHEEP TO THE PRIESTS, WHO COOKED IT AND THEN READ MESSAGES IN THE ENTRAILS.





SAMUEL'S STORY BEGAN WHEN A CHILDLESS WOMAN, **HANNAH**, WENT TO TEMPLE AND VOWED INWARDLY:

LORD, IF THOU WILT GIVE ME A MANCHILD, THEN I WILL GIVE HIM UNTO THE LORD, AND **NO RAZOR** SHALL TOUCH HIS HEAD...

MADAM, ARE YOU DRUNK?

MUTTER MUMBLE

ROCK!!  
ROCK

**ELI**, THE PRIEST, BLESSED HANNAH; SHE WENT HOME; AND IN TIME HAD A SON, **SAMUEL**, WHOM SHE GAVE BACK TO ELI TO RAISE.

I VOWED, AND HE'S PROBABLY YOURS, ANYWAY?

GROWING TO MANHOOD IN THE TEMPLE, HANNAH'S BOY GOT A REPUTATION AS A PROPHET:

THERE'S JUST SOMETHIN' ABOUT HIM...

DOOM!

IT WAS THE SONS OF ELI WHO HAD DIED GUARDING THE ARK AGAINST THE PHILISTINES, LEAVING ONLY SAMUEL TO JUDGE ISRAEL. WHEN THE TIME WAS RIPE, 20 YEARS LATER, HE CALLED OUT THE TROOPS.

THIS TIME, THE ISRAELITES TROUNCED THE PHILISTINES. (IT PROBABLY RAINED AGAIN.)

SAMUEL BECAME ISRAEL'S LEADER, TRAVELLING FROM PLACE TO PLACE TO SIT IN JUDGMENT.

THE FIRST CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE?

IT'S A SHORT CIRCUIT.

THEN, AS SAMUEL GREW OLD, SOME OF THE ELDERS APPROACHED HIM WITH A REQUEST.

SAMUEL, WE WANT A **KING**!!

THE BIBLE DOESN'T GIVE ALL THE REASONS WHY THEY WANTED A KING, BUT WE CAN GUESS.

TIMES HAVE CHANGED: WE'RE A REAL NATION NOW!

OTHER NATIONS HAVE KINGS!

WE NEED SOMEONE TO NEGOTIATE WITH THEM!

THEY THINK PROPHETS ARE TOO WEIRD!

TOO INFLEXIBLE!

TOO HAIRY!

AND WE NEED A REAL ARMY TO FIGHT THOSE PHILISTINES!

WELL?



SAMUEL'S REPLY IS EXPRESSED MORE FULLY:

YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE ASKING FOR?  
A KING WILL TAKE YOUR SHEEP—  
TAKE YOUR FIELD—TAKE YOUR  
SONS AND DAUGHTERS! HE'LL  
KEEP HORSES AND CHARIOTS! HE'LL  
MAKE YOU HIS SLAVES! I'LL DO IT—BUT

**YOU'LL BE  
SORRY!**

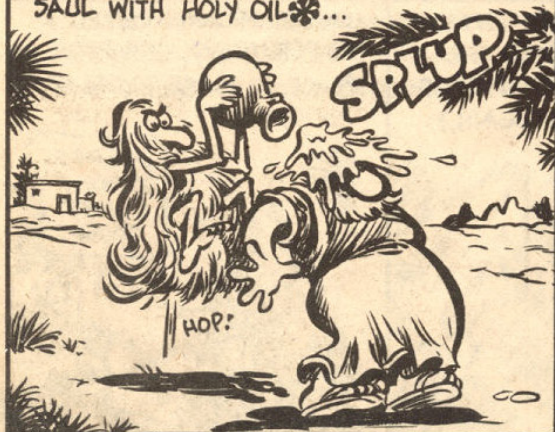


TO SAMUEL, A KING WAS SOMEONE  
**BIG** ENOUGH TO BEAT EVERYONE ELSE  
UP—SO HE STOPPED LOOKING  
WHEN HE SAW SAUL STROLLING  
DOWN THE DAMASCUS ROAD.

TALL SAUL!



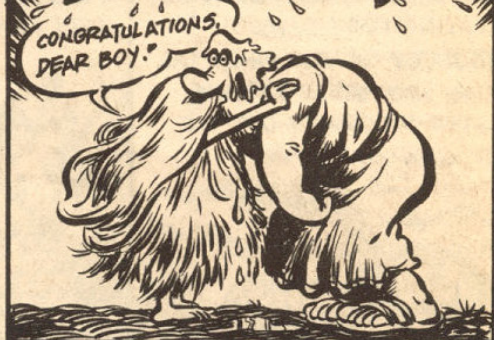
AFTER AN INTERVIEW, SAMUEL ANOINTED  
SAUL WITH HOLY OIL...



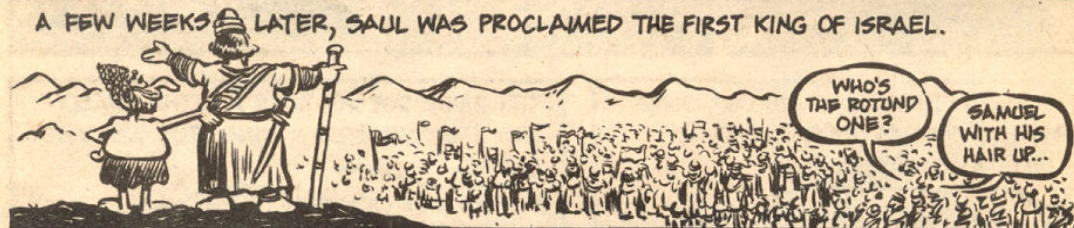
...AND GAVE HIM A BIG KISS!

**SMEEYOORP**

CONGRATULATIONS,  
DEAR BOY.



A FEW WEEKS LATER, SAUL WAS PROCLAIMED THE FIRST KING OF ISRAEL.



THE HEBREW  
CUSTOM OF  
POURING OIL  
ON THE KING'S HEAD  
IS THOUGHT TO COME  
FROM AN EGYPTIAN  
CEREMONY IN WHICH  
A ROYAL GOVERNOR  
SWORE LOYALTY TO  
PHARAOH, THE  
LIVING GOD.

AH! PHARAOH'S OIL ON MY HEAD AND  
TRICKLING OFF MY NOSE AND ALL OVER  
MY NEW LOINCLOTH, WHICH I CAN  
EASILY REPLACE, ON MY GOVERNOR'S  
SALARY...O GLORIOUS DAY!



IN THE CASE OF  
THE HEBREWS, THEN,  
THE ANOINTING  
DID NOT GIVE THE  
KING ABSOLUTE  
POWER, BUT  
RATHER MEANT  
THAT HE WAS  
MERELY GOD'S  
GOVERNOR.

YOU WON'T  
FORGET WHO'S  
BOSS NOW?

DON'T RUB  
IT IN!





FOR HIS FIRST ACT AS KING, SAUL CUT SOME OXEN INTO LITTLE PIECES.

HE SENT THEM THROUGH-  
OUT ISRAEL WITH THIS  
**MESSAGE:**

THE TURNOUT WAS  
**EXCELLENT.**

**HACK BELLOW  
CHOP WAH  
MOO**

"WHOSOEVER COMETH  
NOT FORTH AFTER SAUL  
AND SAMUEL, THE SAME  
SHALL BE DONE TO  
**HIS OXEN.**"

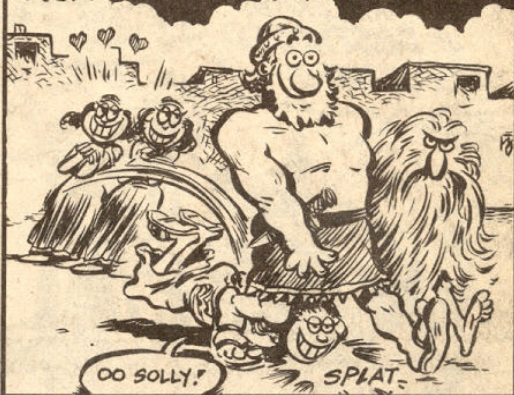


HE LED THE MEN AGAINST A BAND OF  
AMMONITES WHO WERE THREATENING  
TO PUT OUT THE EYES OF SOME INNOCENT  
VILLAGERS.

**YAHU!**

DAMN! WE  
NEVER GET TO  
HAVE ANY FUN!

WHEN THE AMMONITES RAN WITHOUT A  
FIGHT, SAUL WAS THE MAN OF THE  
HOUR.



FLUSHED WITH VICTORY, HE  
SENT HIS SON JONATHAN  
TO ATTACK A PHILISTINE  
GARRISON. IN RETALIATION,  
THE REST OF THE PHILIS-  
TINES TURNED OUT IN  
FORCE...

AND THE ISRAELITES TURNED **AROUND** IN FORCE !!

ULP!

SORRY, O MAN  
OF THE HOUR!

BUT YOUR  
HOUR'S UP!

TO THE  
HILLS!



AS IF THINGS WEREN'T BAD ENOUGH,  
SAMUEL REALLY LET HIM HAVE IT.



SAUL SANK INTO MELANCHOLY AND  
BEGAN TO ACT STRANGE.

YUGGA YUGGA TWEET  
TWEET HEY HEY



THEN HE RAIDED THE **AMALEKITES** FOR  
BOOTY. THIS WENT AGAINST HOLY WRIT:

LOOK-AMALEKITES  
TO BE **DESTROYED**-  
NOT **ROBBED**!!

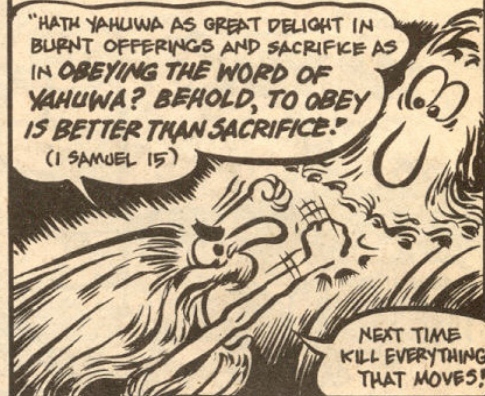
BUT I OFFERED  
TH' USUAL SACRI-  
FICES...



FROM THIS EPISODE COMES AN EARLY  
STATEMENT THAT **MORALITY** IS  
SUPERIOR TO **RITUAL**:

"HATH YAHUWA AS GREAT DELIGHT IN  
BURNT OFFERINGS AND SACRIFICE AS  
IN OBEYING THE WORD OF  
YAHUWA? BEHOLD, TO OBEY  
IS BETTER THAN SACRIFICE."

(1 SAMUEL 15)



TO ILLUSTRATE THE POINT,  
SAMUEL TOOK **AGAG**, THE  
CAPTIVE AMALEKITE KING,  
AND "HEWED HIM IN PIECES."

LIKE THIS?

AND THIS?

AND  
THIS  
AND  
THIS?

CHOP  
WACK-  
CUT



THIS DROVE SAUL INTO SUCH DEEP GLOOM THAT  
HIS FRIENDS HIRED A SINGER TO TRY AND CHEER  
HIM UP, A YOUNG MAN NAMED **DAVID**...





SO THAT WAS THE SITUATION WHEN THE PHILISTINES NEXT CAME OUT FOR BATTLE. IN THE BEST GREEK TRADITION, THEIR HUGEST HERO, **GOLIATH**, PARADED UP AND DOWN BETWEEN THE LINES WITH HIS SHIELD-BEARER.



ISRAEL'S HUGEST WAS **SAUL**, BUT HE HUNG BACK. INSTEAD, HIS **SINGER** VOLUNTEERED.



WE ALL KNOW HOW DAVID FACED GOLIATH WITHOUT ARMOR...



HOW, USING HIS DEADLY SKILL WITH THE SLING,



HE SMACKED GOLIATH A MIGHTY **SMACK**, SMACK BETWEEN THE EYES!



HOW, AS GOLIATH WRITHED IN PAIN...



DAVID CUT OFF THE PHILISTINE'S HEAD WITH HIS OWN SWORD!



GOLIATH WAS SURVIVED BY FOUR OVERSIZED SONS, **ISHBI-BENOB**, **SAPH**, **GOLIATH, JR.**, AND AN UNNAMED GIANT WITH 6 FINGERS ON EACH HAND. THEY ALL GREW UP TO BECOME PHILISTINE WARRIORS, BUT WHAT BECAME OF GOLIATH'S SHIELD-BEARER WE'LL NEVER KNOW...





AFTER THE BATTLE, A NEW POPULAR SONG GOT SAUL'S GALL...

SAUL HAS  
KILLED HIS  
THOUSANDS...

...AND DAVID HAS  
KILLED HIS **TEN**  
**8** THOUSANDS...



THE MOODY MONARCH BEGAN TO THINK ABOUT GETTING RID OF THE KID — SO WHEN THE PRINCESS MICHAL ASKED TO MARRY DAVID, SAUL SAID YES...

O THANK YOU,  
FATHER.



...ON ONE IMPOSSIBLE CONDITION—  
HE THOUGHT."

SHE'S YOURS — IF YOU BRING  
ME 100 FORESKINS OF  
THE PHILISTINES!

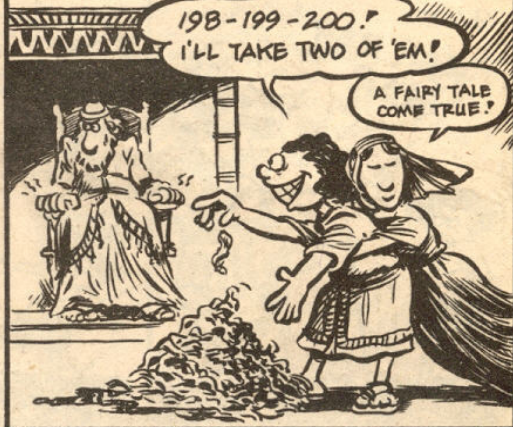
NO PROBLEM!



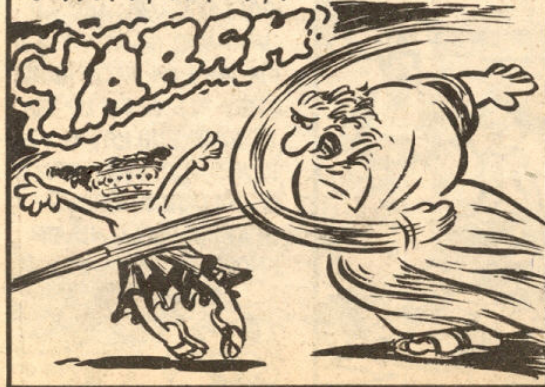
NATURALLY, DAVID WON THE PRINCESS!

198-199-200!"  
I'LL TAKE TWO OF 'EM!

A FAIRY TALE  
COME TRUE!



ONE DAY, AS SAUL WAS PLAYFULLY  
JABBING A JAVELIN AT DAVID, HE  
SUDDENLY LET FLY!



WITH THE AID OF MICHAL AND JONA-  
THAN, DAVID FLED IN THE NIGHT.

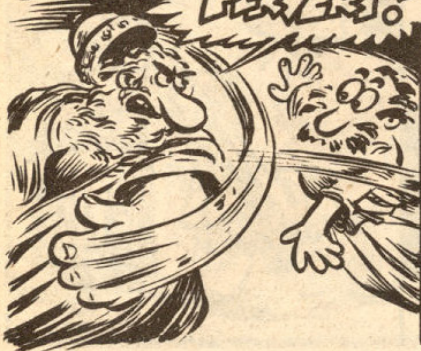
I'D SAY YER FATHER  
HAS TROUBLE WITH LONG-  
TERM RELATIONSHIPS.





WHEN JONATHAN TOLD HIS FATHER THAT DAVID WAS GONE, SAUL TRIED TO RUN HIM THROUGH!

MY SON THE  
**PERVERT!**



BUT DAVID WAS GONE—TO THE HILLS, WHERE HE WAS JOINED BY FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND THE POOR AND OPPRESSED. THESE BECAME KNOWN AS DAVID'S **MIGHTY MEN**, ESPECIALLY THE FEROCIOUS **JOAB**, DAVID'S RIGHT-HAND MIGHTY MAN.

I'M LIKE LITTLE JOHN TO YOUR ROBIN HOOD!

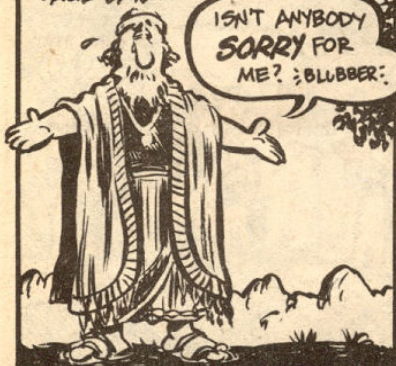
I HAVEN'T THE FAINTEST IDEA WHAT YOU'RE BABBLING ABOUT, BUT I'M SURE YOU'RE RIGHT, JOAB, OLD BOY!



SEVERAL TIMES SAUL TRIED TO CATCH HIM, BUT DAVID ALWAYS GAVE HIM THE SLIP.

SAUL SAID:

ISN'T ANYBODY SORRY FOR ME? **BLUBBER:**



THEN HE GOT WORD THE MIGHTY MEN HAD GONE OVER TO THE PHILISTINES!

BITE  
CHEW



HE WANTED **SAMUEL'S** ADVICE—BUT SAMUEL WAS DEAD—SO SAUL WENT TO A WITCH, WHO CALLED UP HIS **GHOST**.

I'LL BE SEEING YOU SOON ENOUGH—NOW GO AWAY!



WITHIN DAYS, SAUL AND JONATHAN WERE KILLED IN BATTLE WITH THE PHILISTINES.

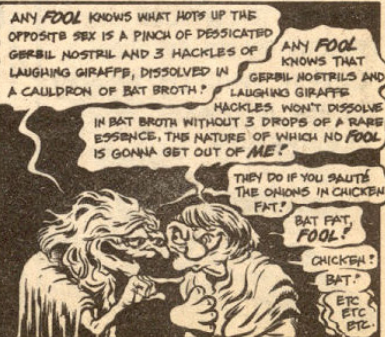


ALTHOUGH THE BIBLICAL KING SAUL ONCE CONSULTED A **WITCH**, THE PRACTICE OF WITCHCRAFT WAS FROWNED ON IN ANCIENT ISRAEL. SAUL HIMSELF, IN ONE OF THOSE PERIODIC DRIVES TO PURIFY RELIGION, HAD ONCE SUPPRESSED THE USE OF 'FAMILIAR SPIRITS.'



WE'VE DECIDED TO ELIMINATE ALL OTHER GODS AGAIN, SO I'M AFRAID I'LL HAVE TO CONFISCATE YOUR CAT!

BECAUSE THE BIBLE IS MUM ON THE RITUALS OF RIVAL CULTS, WE MAY NEVER KNOW EXACTLY HOW ANCIENT WITCHCRAFT WORKED. IF IT WAS ANYTHING LIKE OTHER RELIGIONS, THOUGH, THE WITCHES THEMSELVES PROBABLY DISAGREED ??



ANY **FOOL** KNOWS WHAT HOT'S UP THE OPPOSITE SEX IS A PINCH OF DEDICATED GERBIL NOSTRIL AND 3 HACKLES OF LAUGHING GIRAFFE, DISSOLVED IN A CAULDRON OF BAT BROTH?

ANY **FOOL** KNOWS THAT GERBIL NOSTRILS AND LAUGHING GIRAFFE HACKLES WON'T DISSOLVE IN BAT BROTH WITHOUT 3 DROPS OF A RARE ESSENCE, THE NATURE OF WHICH NO **FOOL** IS GONNA GET OUT OF ME!

THEY DO IF YOU SAUTE THE ONIONS IN CHICKEN FAT!

BAT FAT, **FOOL!**

CHICKEN!

BAT?

ETC.

ETC.



NOW DAVID LED THE MIGHTY MEN TO **HEBRON**, WHERE THE TRIBE OF **JUDAH** CROWNED HIM KING. THE REST OF ISRAEL FOLLOWED **ISHBAAL**, A SON OF SAUL. THIS SPLIT WAS A TASTE OF THINGS TO COME.



FOR TWO YEARS THE RIVALS BATTLED, AND BIT BY BIT THE MIGHTY MEN GOT THE UPPER HAND. FINALLY, **ISHBAAL** WAS ASSASSINATED IN BED.



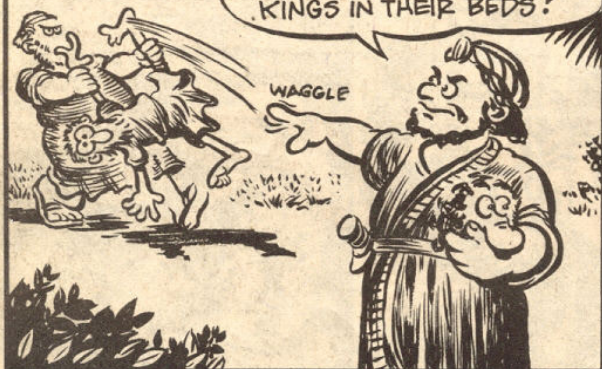
THE KILLERS BROUGHT HIS HEAD TO DAVID.



TO THEIR SHOCK, HE ORDERED THEM EXECUTED AND THEIR HANDS AND FEET CUT OFF AND HUNG UP!

WE DON'T GO MURDERING KINGS IN THEIR BEDS!

WAGGLE



AND SO, AT AGE 30 (OR SO) DAVID BECAME KING OF ISRAEL.



FOR HIS CAPITAL, DAVID CHOSE **JERUSALEM**, A HILL TOWN OCCUPIED SINCE 1800, B.C., BY THE JEBUSITES, A PEOPLE WHOM ISRAEL HAD NEVER MANAGED TO CONQUER. IMPRESSED BY ITS STRONG POSITION, DAVID LED AN ARMY AGAINST JERUSALEM AND TOOK THE CITY.



THEN HE DANCED HALF-NAKED THROUGH THE STREETS, SINGING HYMNS OF VICTORY.





# DAVID, SUPERSTAR

AFTER THE PARADE, MICHAL GAVE DAVID THE BUSINESS.

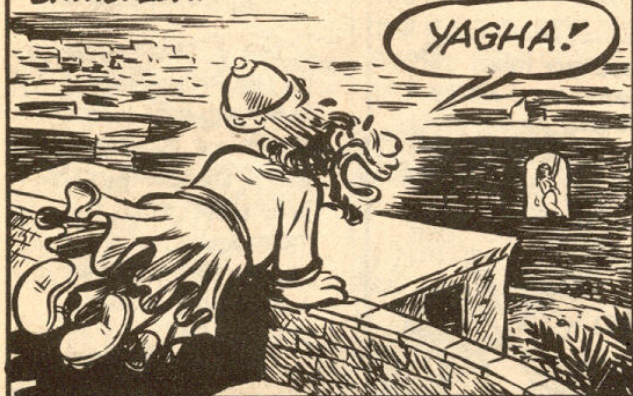


WELL, SHE HAD REASON TO BE UPSET: HER FATHER AND TWO BROTHERS WERE DEAD, AND DAVID HAD TAKEN A COUPLE OF OTHER WIVES TOO - BUT AFTER THIS SPAT, HE NEVER TOUCHED HER AGAIN!

THAT TEMPER REMINDS ME OF HER FATHER?!



SOMETIME LATER, HE WAS TAKING THE AIR ON THE PALACE ROOF, WHEN HE SPOTTED THE BATHING BATHSHEBA.



ALTHOUGH SHE WAS MARRIED - TO **URIAH THE HITTITE**, ONE OF THE MIGHTY MEN - DAVID INVITED BATHSHEBA IN FOR A VISIT.

SURPRISED?

NOT EXACTLY... I'VE BEEN STANDING NAKED IN FRONT OF THAT WINDOW FOR 3 WEEKS NOW...



NOW BATHSHEBA GOT PREGNANT, SO DAVID DID WHAT ANY KING WOULD DO UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES...



HE CALLED URIAH HOME FROM THE WARS...

MY DEAR FELLOW - I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT YOU!?



AND GAVE HIM A LETTER TO TAKE BACK TO GENERAL JOAB.

NO PEEKIN' NOW!





THE LETTER (WRITTEN, I SUPPOSE, IN ALPHABETIC SCRIPT ✻) SAID, IN EFFECT, "TAKE CARE OF URIAH THE HITTITE."

WOT'S IT SAY, SIR?

SOMETIMES THE BOSS REALLY GOES TOO FAR...

NEVER MIND!

CRUMPLE

SO JOAB SENT URIAH, WITH A CONTINGENT OF MEN, TOO CLOSE TO THE WALLS OF THE CITY THEY WERE BESEIGING.



NATURALLY, THE DEFENDERS WERE ABLE TO PICK OFF SEVERAL OF THEM, INCLUDING URIAH.

TELL THE KING THERE'S GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS...

HE'S DEAD!  
HE'S DEAD!

AFTER A PROPER PERIOD OF MOURNING, DAVID MARRIED BATHSHEBA, BUT THEIR BABY DIED — GOD'S PUNISHMENT, IT WAS SAID. STILL, THEY TRIED AGAIN, AND THE SECOND EFFORT WORKED: A SON THEY NAMED SOLOMON.

WHAT A LITTLE WISE GUY!?



THE ALPHABET WAS INVENTED

AT LEAST TWICE IN ANCIENT CANAAN, BUT ALL VERSIONS DIED OUT EXCEPT FOR THE ONE DEVISED BY SEMITIC COPPER MINERS IN THE SINAI. THIS 22-CHARACTER SCRIPT, BASED ON EGYPTIAN HEIROGLYPHS, IS THE ANCESTOR OF ALL MODERN ALPHABETS.

HAW! LOOKIT DEM SLAVES PLAYIN' AT WRITIN'!

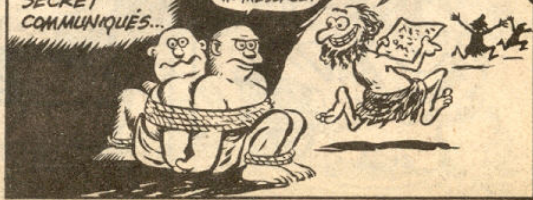
THEY'RE JUS' LIKE LITTLE CHILDREN PRETENDIN' TA HAVE DA MENTAL CAPACITY FOR DA FINER TINGS OF CIVILIZATION!



SO IT SEEMS OUR SYSTEM OF WRITING IS BASED ON SOMETHING MADE UP FOR SENDING SECRET COMMUNIQUE'S...

I HAD THE MOST INTERESTING LETTER TODAY: "WE RISE WITH THE SUN!" I JUST HOPE YOU BOYS SEE THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF ALL THIS...

I GET TA MESSAGE!





IN SOLOMON'S BOYHOOD, THE COURT OF ISRAEL GREW RICH, AS DAVID'S ARMIES PUT DOWN THE PHILISTINES AND FORCED TRIBUTE FROM ALL THE NEIGHBORING KINGDOMS. THUS, UNLIKE HIS FATHER, SOLOMON GREW UP AMIDST WEALTH, POWER, DIPLOMACY, AND *PALACE INTRIGUE*.

HE SAW HIS HALF-SISTER *TAMAR* RAPED BY HIS HALF-BROTHER *AMNON*.



HE SAW ANOTHER HALF-BROTHER, *ABSALOM*, AVENGE THE CRIME BY MURDERING *AMNON*.



A FEW YEARS LATER, HE SAW THE SAME *ABSALOM* LEAD A REBELLION AGAINST *DAVID*.

TO YOUR TENTS, O ISRAEL!



HE SAW HOW *DAVID*'S MIGHTY MEN PUT DOWN THE REVOLT, AND HOW THE FLEEING *ABSALOM* GOT HIS HEAD CAUGHT IN A TREE...



...AND HOW GENERAL *JOAB* PERSONALLY HELPED CUT HIM TO BITS?



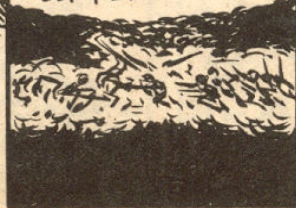
HE SAW KING *DAVID* MOURN FOR HIS SON, AND *JOAB*'S ANGER.

O *ABSALOM*, MY SON!

YOU'RE MAKIN' YER FRIENDS LOOK BAD, GODDAMMIT!



HE SAW THE REVOLT *SPLIT THE KINGDOM* AGAIN, WITH THE TRIBES OF *JUDAH* AND *BENJAMIN* FOLLOWING *DAVID* AND THE REST LOYAL TO THE HOUSE OF *SAILL*, JUST AS BEFORE.



*DAVID* SPENT HIS OLD AGE FIGHTING TO HOLD HIS KINGDOM TOGETHER. EVEN THE *PHILISTINES* ROSE AGAIN!

WHEEZE! KAF! I'M TOO \*@# OLD FOR THIS!



ALL THIS *SOLOMON* SAW...



AS DAVID LAY DYING, RACKED BY CHILLS, HIS ADVISERS TRIED TO WARM HIM UP WITH THE BEAUTY ABISHAG, AND HIS SONS BEGAN EYEING THE THRONE...



ONE, ADONIJAH ("LORD JAH") STAGED HIS OWN CORONATION WITHOUT INVITING SOLOMON.



MEANWHILE, BATHSHEBA BEGGED THE DYING KING TO FAVOR HER SON.



CLAIMING DAVID'S BLESSING, THE PRIESTS, PROPHETS, AND MIGHTY MEN PROCLAIMED SOLOMON KING AND HELD A HUGE PARADE. AT THE SIGHT, ADONIJAH'S FRIENDS TURNED TAIL!



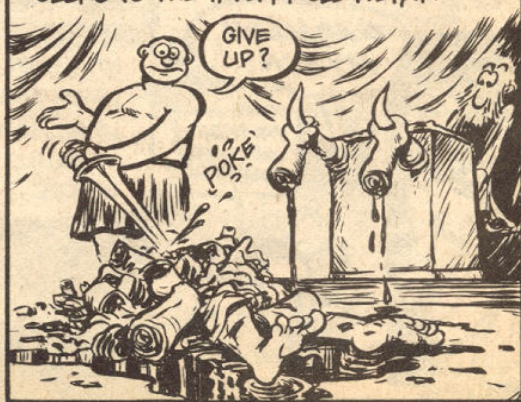
ADONIJAH ENDED UP BEGGING FOR MERCY, AND SOLOMON SAID:



BUT AS SOON AS DAVID DIED, SOLOMON FOUND AN EXCUSE TO PUT HIS RIVAL TO DEATH.



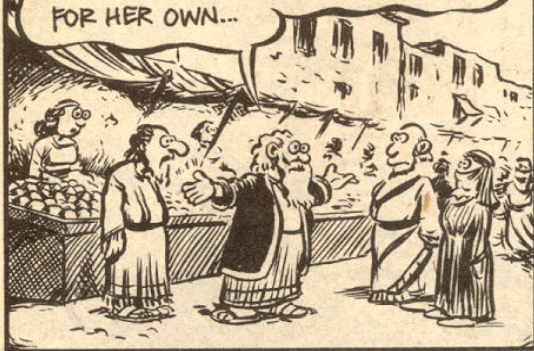
ADONIJAH'S FRIENDS, TOO, WERE OFFED, INCLUDING OLD GENERAL JOAB, AS HE CLUNG TO THE TABERNACLE ALTAR.





THEN SOLOMON SPREAD THE STORY OF THE **TWO WOMEN**:

TWO WOMEN CAME TO MY LORD SOLOMON WITH A BABY, AND EACH CLAIMED IT FOR HER OWN...



MY LORD SAID: "BRING ME A SWORD," AND A SWORD WAS BROUGHT. AND HE SAID, "CUT THE LIVING CHILD IN TWO AND GIVE HALF TO ONE AND HALF TO THE OTHER."



THE FIRST WOMAN SAID: "O MY LORD, GIVE HER THE LIVING CHILD, AND IN NO WISE SLAY IT," BUT THE OTHER SAID, "LET IT BE NEITHER MINE NOR THINE, BUT DIVIDE IT." MY LORD SOLOMON SAID, "DO NOT DIVIDE THE CHILD, BUT GIVE IT TO THE FIRST WOMAN, FOR SHE IS THE MOTHER."

GET IT?



IN OTHER WORDS:

ANYONE WANNA **DIVIDE THE KINGDOM**? LET'S DIVIDE THE KINGDOM — BUT REMEMBER — **SOLOMON HAS THE SWORDS!?**



NO WONDER THEY CALLED HIM WISE!

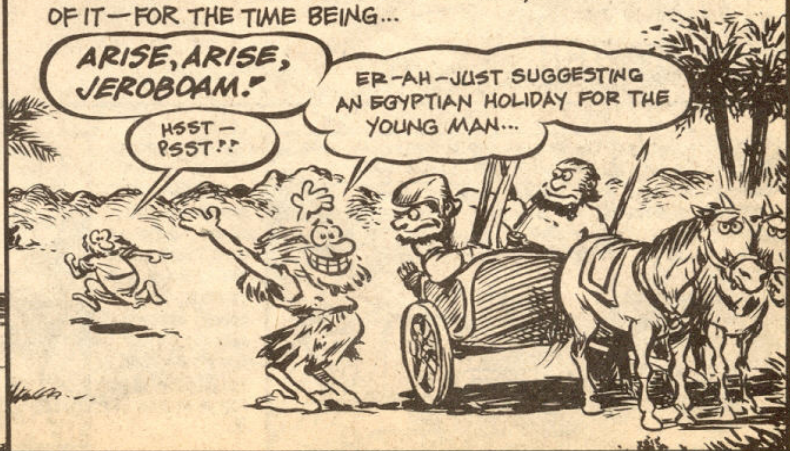
SO SOLOMON BECAME ISRAEL'S MOST POWERFUL KING; AND JUST AS SAMUEL HAD FORESEEN, HE LAID HEAVY TAXES, BEEFED UP THE CHARIOTRY, TOOK HUNDREDS OF WIVES, AND WORSHIPPED ALIEN GODS.!

A FEW PROPHETS DENOUNCED HIS RULE, BUT NOTHING CAME OF IT—FOR THE TIME BEING...

**ARISE, ARISE, JEROBOAM!**

HSST — PSST!?

ER-AH—JUST SUGGESTING AN EGYPTIAN HOLIDAY FOR THE YOUNG MAN...



O GOD, I CAN'T LOOK ...





THEN THERE WERE SOLOMON'S BUILDING PROJECTS. HE MADE A DEAL WITH **HIRAM**, KING OF THE SOPHISTICATED SEAPORT OF **TYRE**.

YOU HIRAM?

AND I FIRE 'EM! HO HO!

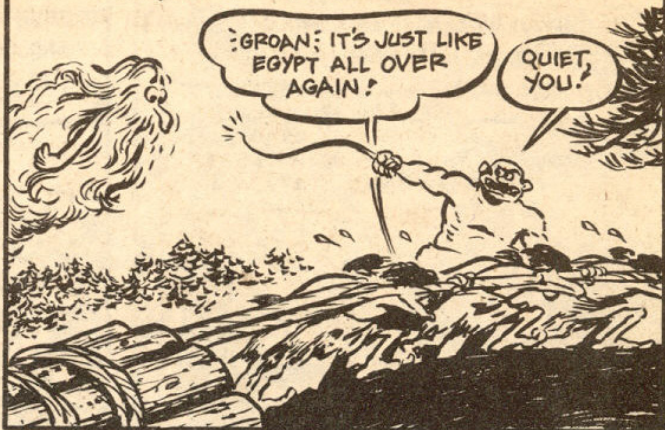
DID SOMEONE SAY "SOPHISTICATED?"



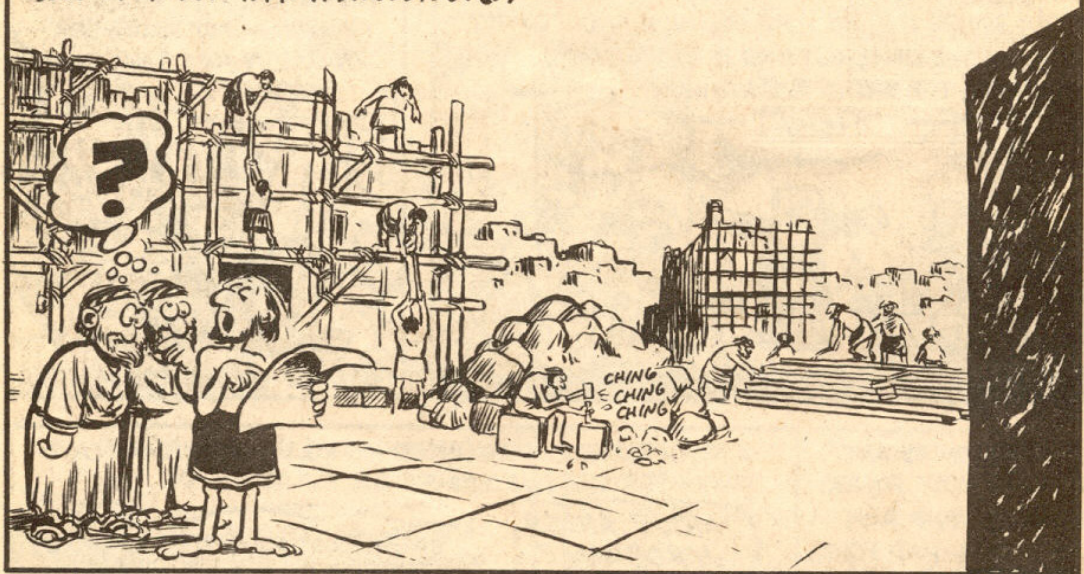
SOLOMON SUPPLIED GANGS OF LABORERS, 10,000 AT A TIME, TO CUT HIRAM'S TIMBER.

GROAN! IT'S JUST LIKE EGYPT ALL OVER AGAIN!

QUIET, YOU!



HIRAM SUPPLIED TYRIAN SHIPS, ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, METALWORKERS, IVORY-CARVERS, ETC. (WE'LL MEET THESE TYRIAN EXPERTS AGAIN AND AGAIN, WORKING FOR NATIONS WITH LESS KNOW-HOW THAN THEMSELVES.✽)



ONE MEASURE OF THE SCIENTIFIC ABILITY OF ANCIENT PEOPLES IS HOW ACCURATELY THEY COMPUTED THE VALUE OF "PI," THE RATIO OF A CIRCLE'S CIRCUMFERENCE TO ITS DIAMETER, OR 3.14159... THE EGYPTIANS HAD IT AT  $256/81$ , OR 3.16049..., AND THE BABYLONIANS USED  $3\frac{1}{4} = 3.125$ .

THE BABYLONIANS, IN PARTICULAR, WERE A WHIZ WITH THEORETICAL MATH.

...SUBTRACT 25 SHEKEL-WEIGHT, ADD 5/60... AND WE SEE YOU OWE ME EXACTLY  $32\frac{1}{60}$  SHEEP."

ER—CAN YOU BREAK A RAM?



THE BIBLE, WRITTEN DURING A SLUMP IN EGYPTIAN AND BABYLONIAN CIVILIZATION, MENTIONS A GIANT ROUND CAULDRON AT SOLOMON'S TEMPLE, 30 CUBITS AROUND AND 10 CUBITS ACROSS—GIVING THE BIBLICAL VALUE FOR PI AT EXACTLY 3.

HEY—THAT'S WHY I HAD IT BUILT BY OUTSIDE CONSULTANTS!

THE WISEST MOVE—AS ALWAYS, SIRE!!





THE RESULT WAS A LARGE PALACE FOR SOLOMON AND A SOMEWHAT SMALLER TEMPLE FOR YAHUWA. (SOLOMON'S HAREM WAS BIGGER.) IN THESE SPLENDID DIGS, THE KING LIVED OUT HIS REIGN IN PEACE, RECEIVING FOREIGN DIGNITARIES AND DROPPING THE LITTLE BITS OF WISDOM THAT MADE HIM FAMOUS.'

"THE WISDOM OF THE PRUDENT  
IS TO UNDERSTAND HIS WAY:  
BUT THE FOLLY OF FOOLS IS  
DECEIT..." HMM... TRY AGAIN...

"THE CROWN OF THE WISE  
IS THEIR RICHES: BUT THE  
FOOLISHNESS OF FOOLS IS  
THEIR FOLLY... HEH HEH...

"THE TONGUE OF THE WISE USETH  
KNOWLEDGE ARIGHT, BUT THE  
MOUTH OF FOOLS POURETH OUT  
FOOLISHNESS..."

HEY, I GOT A  
MILLION OF 'EM?

EVER THINK OF  
CUTTIN' IT DOWN  
TO TEN, SOL?





# SPLIT KINGDOM

DURING SOLOMON'S REIGN, PROTEST WAS MUTED, BUT AFTER HIS DEATH, PLENTY OF DISGRUNTLED SUBJECTS CAME TO THE CORONATION OF HIS SON REHOBOAM.



THEIR SPOKESMAN, **JEROBOAM**, WHO HAD COME OUT OF HIDING IN EGYPT, CONFRONTED THE NEW KING.

I'LL GET TO THE POINT:  
**ARE YOU GONNA BE  
AN IMPROVEMENT  
ON YOUR FATHER?**



AFTER CHECKING WITH HIS ADVISERS, REHOBOAM GAVE THIS MEMORABLE ANSWER:

MY FATHER CHASTISED  
YOU WITH WHIPS...



I SHALL CHASTISE YOU  
WITH **SCORPIONS!?**

KITCHY KITCHY  
KITCHY



TO WHICH JEROBOAM MADE AN EQUALLY MEMORABLE REPLY:

**TO YOUR TENTS,  
O ISRAEL!?**

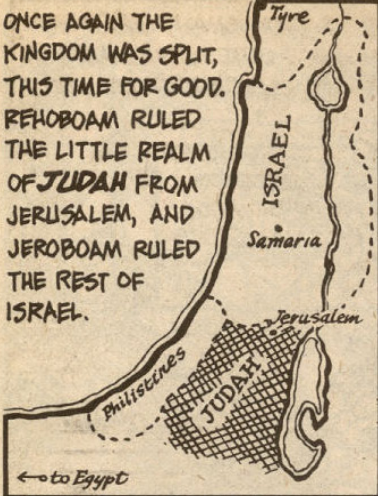


AT FIRST, REHOBOAM DIDN'T TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY, BUT WHEN THEY STONED HIS CHIEF TAX COLLECTOR TO DEATH, HE RETURNED TO JERUSALEM IN A HURRY.





ONCE AGAIN THE KINGDOM WAS SPLIT, THIS TIME FOR GOOD. REHOBOAM RULED THE LITTLE REALM OF **JUDAH** FROM JERUSALEM, AND JEROBOAM RULED THE REST OF ISRAEL.



MANY FRIENDS OF SOLOMON HAD TO FLEE ISRAEL FOR JUDAH, ESPECIALLY THE **PRIESTS**.



AS A RESULT, JUDAH BECAME THE CENTER OF THE RELIGION WHICH NATURALLY CAME TO BE KNOWN AS **JUDAISM**. WHAT HAPPENED IN ISRAEL WE'LL BE SEEING SHORTLY...



MEANWHILE, **EGYPT**, WHICH WAS MAKING A COMEBACK, TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE SPLIT TO ATTACK JUDAH, ITS NEAREST NEIGHBOR.



REHOBOAM WISELY SUBMITTED, AND PHARAOH CARRIED OFF SOLOMON'S FABULOUS WEALTH.



THOUGH POOR, JUDAH DID FAIRLY WELL UNDER EGYPTIAN PROTECTION, AND THE HOUSE OF DAVID RULED WITHOUT INTERRUPTION; BUT IN ISRAEL THINGS WENT LESS SMOOTHLY...



AFTER JEROBOAM'S DEATH (c.915 B.C.), ALL HIS HEIRS WERE MURDERED BY A REBEL NAMED **BAASHA**.



BAASHA'S HEIRS WERE "CUT OFF" BY **ZIMRI**, A CAPTAIN OF CHARIOTS, WHO REIGNED FOR ONE WEEK.



ZIMRI WAS TOPPLED BY **OMRI** AND BURNT IN THE PALACE.



OMRI HELD ON FOR LIFE AND LEFT THE THRONE TO HIS SON **AHAB**.



# ASSYRIA RISING

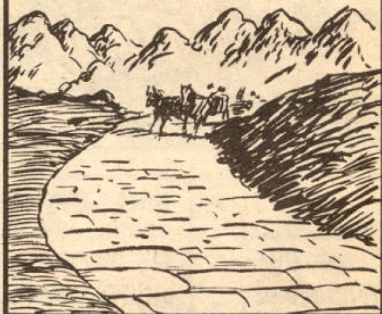
MEANWHILE, BEYOND THE EUPHRATES RIVER, FROM THE HILLS NORTH OF BABYLON, THE KINGS OF **ASHUR** HAD BEGUN THE CONQUESTS WHICH WOULD BUILD THE **ASSYRIAN EMPIRE**.



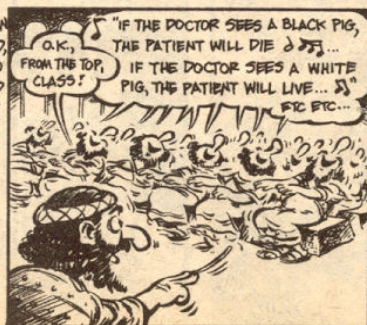
THE ASSYRIANS INHERITED THE RELIGION, LITERATURE, AND SCIENCE OF SUMER AND BABYLON; AND THEY ADDED SOME WACKY IDEAS OF THEIR OWN. ❁



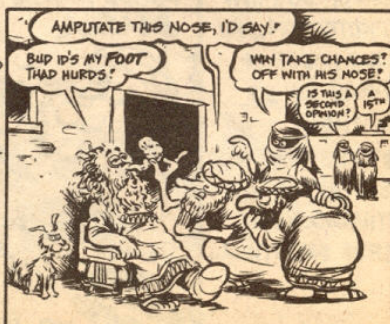
THEY WERE EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATORS, MAINTAINING A SYSTEM OF MESSENGERS AND ROADS WHICH **PAVED** THE WAY FOR FURTHER CONQUESTS.



❁ THE ASSYRIAN PRIESTHOOD, ADDICTED TO MUMBO-JUMBO, HAD LET THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE SLIDE FROM A REASONABLY HIGH LEVEL INTO A MESS OF MAGIC SPELLS AND INCANTATIONS. ONE WONDERS WHAT THEIR **MEDICAL SCHOOLS** WERE LIKE...

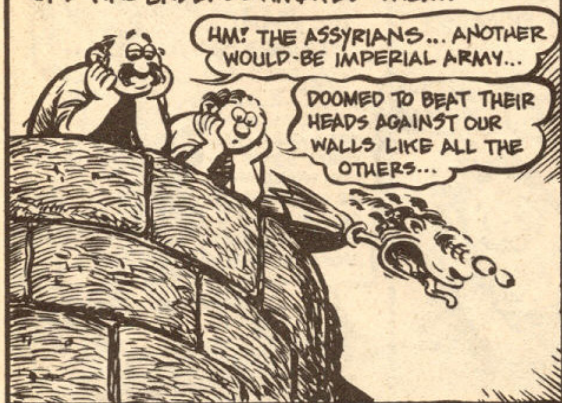


THIS MAY EXPLAIN WHY A SICK ASSYRIAN, INSTEAD OF CONSULTING A DOCTOR, WOULD USUALLY JUST SIT OUTSIDE HIS DOORWAY AND TAKE ADVICE FROM ANYONE WHO CARED TO GIVE IT.

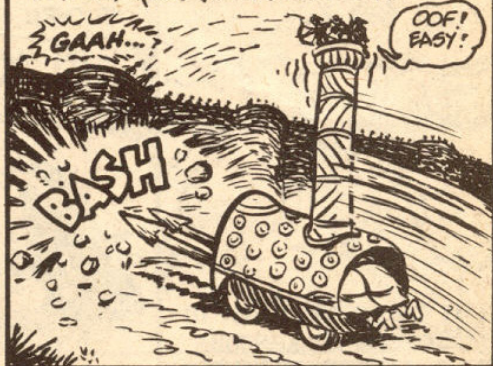




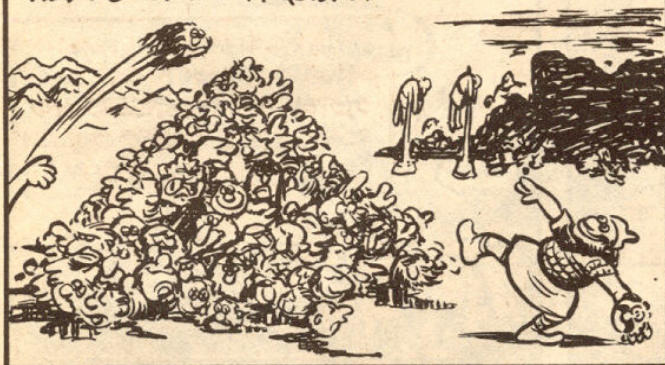
BUT WHERE THE ASSYRIANS REALLY EXCELLED WAS AT **WAR**, AND WOE TO ANYONE WHO UNDERESTIMATED THEM!



THEY PERFECTED THE USE OF **ARMORED BATTERING RAMS**, **SEIGE TOWERS**, AND OTHER DEVICES FOR CONQUERING WALLED CITIES.



THEN, AFTER A VICTORY, THE ASSYRIANS SYSTEMATICALLY **BURNT, FLAYED, TORTURED, BEHEADED, MUTILATED, IMPALED, AND HEAPED UP THE HEADS** OF THE VANQUISHED.



THEN THEY ADVERTISED THE FACT - IN DETAIL!



IT MUST HAVE BEEN HARD BEING KING OF ASSYRIA!



WITH ASSYRIA RISING IN THE EAST, THE KINGS OF JUDAH, ISRAEL, DAMASCUS, TYRE, MOAB, ETC., ETC., SUDDENLY PUT ASIDE THEIR DIFFERENCES!





THIS COALITION WAS ABLE TO HOLD OFF THE ASSYRIANS TEMPORARILY IN A BATTLE ON THE KARKAR RIVER, 853, B.C.

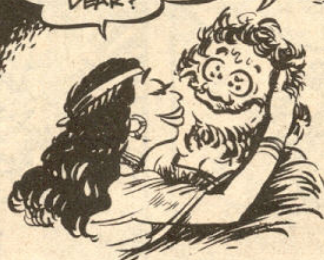


BUT THE INDIRECT COST TO ISRAEL WAS TREMENDOUS.

25 YEARS EARLIER, KING AHAB CEMENTED ONE ALLIANCE BY MARRYING JEZEBEL, A PRINCESS OF TYRE.

A DALLIANCE FOR THE ALLIANCE, DEAR?

HEE HO HURK



NOW JEZEBEL WAS MOST DEVOTED TO HER GOD, THE BAAL (= "LORD") OF TYRE.

HONEY, YOU'RE NOT A MALE CHAUVINIST SWINE WHO WOULD MAKE ME WORSHIP HIS GOD WITHOUT WORSHIPPING MINE—ARE YOU?

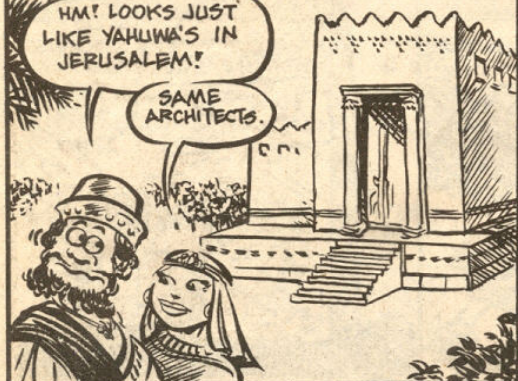
HEE HO



AHAB, AN ACCOMMODATING SORT, BUILT A TEMPLE TO THE GOD IN SAMARIA, HIS CAPITAL.

WHAT LOOKS JUST LIKE YAHUWA'S IN JERUSALEM!

SAME ARCHITECTS.



BAAL AND JEZEBEL WERE DENOUNCED BY THE NATIVE PROPHETS, ESPECIALLY ELIJAH THE TISHBITE, WHO PROPHESIED DIRE TIMES!

AS THE GOD OF ISRAEL LIVETH, THERE SHALL BE NO RAIN FOR THREE YEARS!

BAAL

BAAL

BAAL



WHEN THE RAINS STOPPED, JEZEBEL BLAMED THE PROPHETS OF YAHUWA, AND INTO THE DESERT THEY WENT.



AS THE DROUGHT LENGTHENED, SO DID ELIJAH'S REPUTATION. IT WAS SAID HE WAS FED BY CROWS AND COULD RESURRECT THE DEAD.

ACTUALLY, HE FEEDS US—BUT DON'T TELL ANYONE!

HELLO





# UP AGAINST THE BAAL

HE CHALLENGED THE  
PROPHETS OF BAAL TO A DUEL.

AFTER THREE YEARS' DROUGHT, AHAB WAS OUT LOOK-  
ING FOR WATER, WHEN ELIJAH SUDDENLY APPEARED.

AREN'T YOU THE ONE  
RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS  
\*@\*# DRY SPELL?

NO—AND I'LL  
PROVE IT!



I'LL TAKE ON 450  
OF 'EM! AND BRING  
YOUR FRIENDS!?



BEFORE A LARGE CROWD  
TWO ALTARS WERE BUILT,  
FIREWOOD ADDED, AND  
TWO SLAUGHTERED BULLS  
LAID ON. ELIJAH SAID:

"CALL YE ON THE NAME OF  
YOUR GOD, AND I WILL CALL  
ON THE NAME OF YAHUWA,  
AND THE GOD THAT ANSWERS  
BY FIRE, LET HIM BE GOD!"

ALL MORNING THE PROPHETS  
OF BAAL PRAYED FOR  
FIRE.



THEY SCREAMED; THEY HOWLED,  
THEY SLASHED THEMSELVES  
WITH KNIVES, BUT NOTHING  
WORKED.

AND YOUR WOOD  
IS DRY AS KINDER!  
TSK!



WHEN ELIJAH'S TURN CAME,  
HE DID SOMETHING ODD:

HE'S POURING WATER ON IT!  
WHERE DID HE GET WATER?

WATER?

GULP?

WATER...



THREE TIMES ELIJAH  
EMPTIED HIS BUCKET,  
UNTIL EVERYTHING  
WAS SOPPING.

WHAT A  
DREADFUL, DREADFUL  
WASTE!



THEN HE CALLED  
ON THE GOD OF  
ABRAHAM, ISAAC,  
AND JACOB,  
AND THE WHOLE  
WORKS BURST  
INTO FLAME!  
THE PEOPLE  
FELL ON THEIR  
FACES.





EVER SINCE, SKEPTICS HAVE WONDERED IF IT WAS REALLY **WATER** ELIJAH POURED — BUT AT THE TIME THERE WERE PLENTY OF BELIEVERS.\* ELIJAH ORDERED THEM TO SEIZE THE PRIESTS OF BAAL...



BEFORE AHAB'S HORRIFIED GAZE, JEZEBEL'S FRIENDS WERE PUT TO THE SWORD.\*



AS THE RAINS BEGAN, ELIJAH "WENT FOR HIS LIFE."

HE DID WHAT?!



THINKING HE WAS AS GOOD AS DEAD, HE PASSED HIS MANTLE TO **ELISHA**, WHOM HE FOUND PLOWING A FIELD.

HERE — MAYBE THE SIMILARITY OF NAMES WILL CONFUSE 'EM...



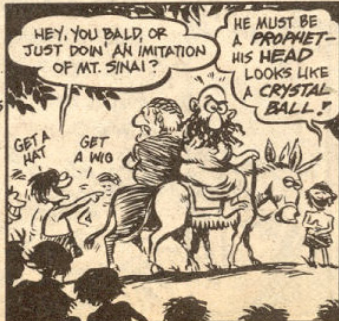
ELISHA SLAUGHTERED HIS OXEN, FED HIS NEIGHBORS, AND RAN OFF TO JOIN ELIJAH.\*

I TAKE BACK ANYTHING I MAY HAVE SAID ABOUT TROUBLE-MAKING PROPHETS.\*

A FINE BOILED BEEF!



TO SEE THE SOMETIMES STRAINED RELATIONS BETWEEN THE ANCIENT ISRAELITES AND THEIR PROPHETS, WE MIGHT NOTE AN INCIDENT IN THE 2<sup>ND</sup> BOOK OF **KINGS**, IN WHICH THE PROPHET ELISHA IS MOCKED BY A CROWD OF CHILDREN.



SO ELISHA "CURSED THEM IN THE NAME OF THE LORD, AND THERE CAME FORTH TWO SHE-BEARS FROM THE WOOD AND TARE FORTY AND TWO CHILDREN OF THEM."

(2 KINGS 2:23-24)

WHEN YOU WRITE THIS STORY, MAKE SURE TO LEAVE OUT ALL THE TIMES THE BEARS DIDN'T SHOW UP.\*





NOW 15 YEARS PASS...  
ELIJAH WAS DEAD; AHAB  
WAS DEAD; AHAB'S SON  
**JORAM** RULED ISRAEL,  
AND HIS GRANDSON **AHA-  
ZIAH** RULED JUDAH;  
JEZEBEL STILL LIVED; AND  
ELISHA, NOW A ROYAL  
CONSULTANT AND LEADER  
OF A LARGE BAND OF  
PROPHETS, DECIDED THE  
TIME HAD COME FOR A  
FINAL SOLUTION TO THE  
BAAL PROBLEM...

HE SENT ONE OF HIS PROPHETS TO SEEK OUT **JEHU**, AN  
ESPECIALLY NASTY CAPTAIN OF CHARIOTS.



THE MESSENGER FOUND **JEHU** WITH SOME FRIENDS,  
PULLED HIM INTO A HOUSE, ANOINTED HIM KING,  
AND RAN OFF.

**BLAT**



**JEHU** AND HIS SUPPORTERS  
DROVE TO **JEZREEL**,  
WHERE KING **AHAZIAH** WAS  
VISITING KING **JORAM**. FROM  
THE TOWER THE WATCHMAN  
REPORTED:

"THE DRIVING IS LIKE THE DRIVING  
OF **JEHU**, SON OF **NIMSHI**; FOR  
HE DRIVETH FURIOUSLY."



A COUPLE OF MESSENGERS LEFT THE CITY  
WITHOUT COMING BACK, SO **JORAM** AND **AHA-  
ZIAH** RODE OUT TO MEET **JEHU** PERSONALLY.  
THIS WAS THE DIALOG:

IS IT PEACE,  
**JEHU**?

WHAT PEACE, SO LONG  
AS THE WHOREDOMS OF  
THY MOTHER **JEZEBEL** AND  
HER WITCHCRAFTS ARE  
SO MANY ??



AS **JORAM** TURNED TO FLEE, **JEHU**,  
"WITH HIS FULL STRENGTH," PUT AN  
ARROW THROUGH HIM ??

I DON'T THINK IT'S PEACE,  
**AHAZIAH** — UK?





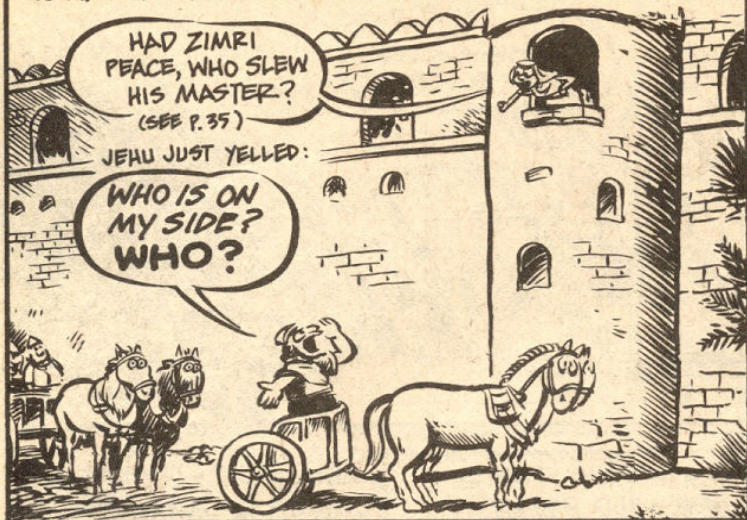
AFTER AHAZIAH, TOO, WAS CUT DOWN, JEHU RODE INTO TOWN TO FIND JEZEBEL. SHE APPEARED AT A WINDOW AND SAID:

HAD ZIMRI  
PEACE, WHO SLEW  
HIS MASTER?

(SEE P. 35)

JEHU JUST YELLED:

WHO IS ON  
MY SIDE?  
WHO?



TWO OR THREE EUNUCHS  
STUCK OUT THEIR HEADS,  
AND, AT JEHU'S ORDER,  
THREW THE OLD QUEEN  
DOWN.



JEHU'S CHARIOTS TRAMPLED HER BODY UNTIL NOTHING WAS LEFT BUT THE HANDS, FEET, AND HEAD.

"THIS IS THE WORD OF YAHUWAH, SPOKEN BY HIS SERVANT ELIJAH THE TISHBITE, SAYING, IN THE PORTION OF JEZREEL SHALL DOGS EAT THE FLESH OF JEZEBEL...."



THEN HE WROTE TO THE ELDERS  
IN CHARGE OF AHAB'S 70  
CHILDREN, CHALLENGING THEM  
EITHER TO FIGHT OR TO SEND  
IN THE ROYAL HEADS. THE  
ELDERS DIDN'T TAKE LONG  
TO DECIDE.



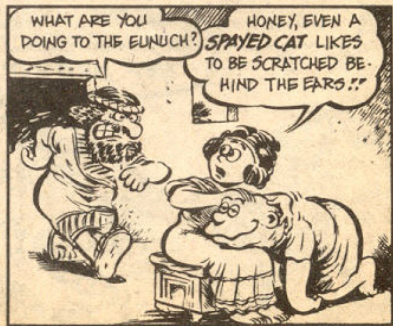
THE 70 HEADS WERE HEAPED IN TWO PILES AT THE  
CITY GATE.



THE ORIGIN  
OF EUNUCHS  
SEEMS TO HAVE  
BEEN ROOTED IN THE  
WORSHIP OF ISHTAR,  
THE BABYLONIAN SEX  
GODDESS ('ASHTORETH'  
IN THE BIBLE). SOME MEN  
IN A FRENZY OF DEVOT-  
ION, WOULD CASTRATE  
THEMSELVES AS A  
WAY OF GIVING ISHTAR  
THE THING SHE VALUED  
MOST?



IN TIME, IT WAS  
SEEN THAT EUNUCHS GREW  
PLUMP AND  
PASSIONLESS, SO  
KINGS AND QUEENS  
BEGAN KEEPING A FEW OF THEM  
AROUND AS  
SERVANTS, AD-  
VISERS, AND ES-  
PECIALLY HAREM  
GUARDS.





AFTER DISPOSING OF THE REST OF AHAH'S SERVANTS, PRIESTS, AND COURTIER, AS WELL AS 42 BROTHERS OF AHZIAH, JEHU TURNED HIS ATTENTION TO **BAAL** WITH THIS CRYPTIC COUPLET:

AHAB SERVED BAAL A LITTLE;  
BUT **JEHU** SHALL SERVE HIM  
**MUCH.**



HE ANNOUNCED A GREAT SACRIFICE TO **BAAL**, WHICH NONE OF THE GOD'S PRIESTS, PROPHETS, OR WORSHIPPERS DARED TO MISS.



WHEN THE TEMPLE WAS PACKED FULL, JEHU'S SOLDIERS BARRED THE DOORS.



A GUARD WAS POSTED AROUND THE BUILDING, AND ALL INSIDE WERE SLAUGHTERED.



THE STATUES OF **BAAL** WERE BURNED; THE TEMPLE WAS KNOCKED DOWN AND MADE INTO A PUBLIC TOILET; AND THE WORSHIP OF **BAAL** IN ISRAEL WAS ENDED—FOR A WHILE, ANYWAY...

AAAH~  
AN OFFERING  
TO **BAAL**...



THE ONLY PORTRAIT WE HAVE OF ANY ISRAELITE KING SHOWS JEHU, BOWING TO THE ASSYRIAN **SHALMA-NESER III**, AROUND 830, B.C.





# THE END?

ISRAEL EVENTUALLY RECOVERED FROM JEHU'S COUP, AND BY 750, B.C. WAS EVEN HAVING A **GOLDEN AGE**. NEW LAWS WERE WRITTEN AND THE ANCIENT TALES RETOLD...



...WHILE THE PROPHET **AMOS** DENOUNCED LUXURY IN THE MIDST OF POVERTY (A COMMON FEATURE OF "GOLDEN AGES"?).

"WOE TO THEM THAT LIE ON BEDS OF IVORY... THAT DRINK WINE IN BOWLS AND ANOINT THEMSELVES... BUT ARE NOT GRIEVED BY THE AFFLICTIONS OF JOSEPH..."



THEN, ABOUT 740, B.C., AN ASSYRIAN TAXMAN WAS BUTCHERED BY SOME CITIZENS OF TYRE.

AND STAY OUT!!



THE ASSYRIAN ARMY SWEEP DOWN, COMMITTED THE USUAL ATROCITIES, AND TRAMPED THROUGH NORTHERN ISRAEL AS A SHOW OF STRENGTH.



BY COLLECTING AN EMERGENCY TAX OF 50 SHEKELS A HEAD, KING MENAHEM WAS ABLE TO BUY THEM OFF FOR A TIME...

JINGLE  
JINGLE  
JINGLE

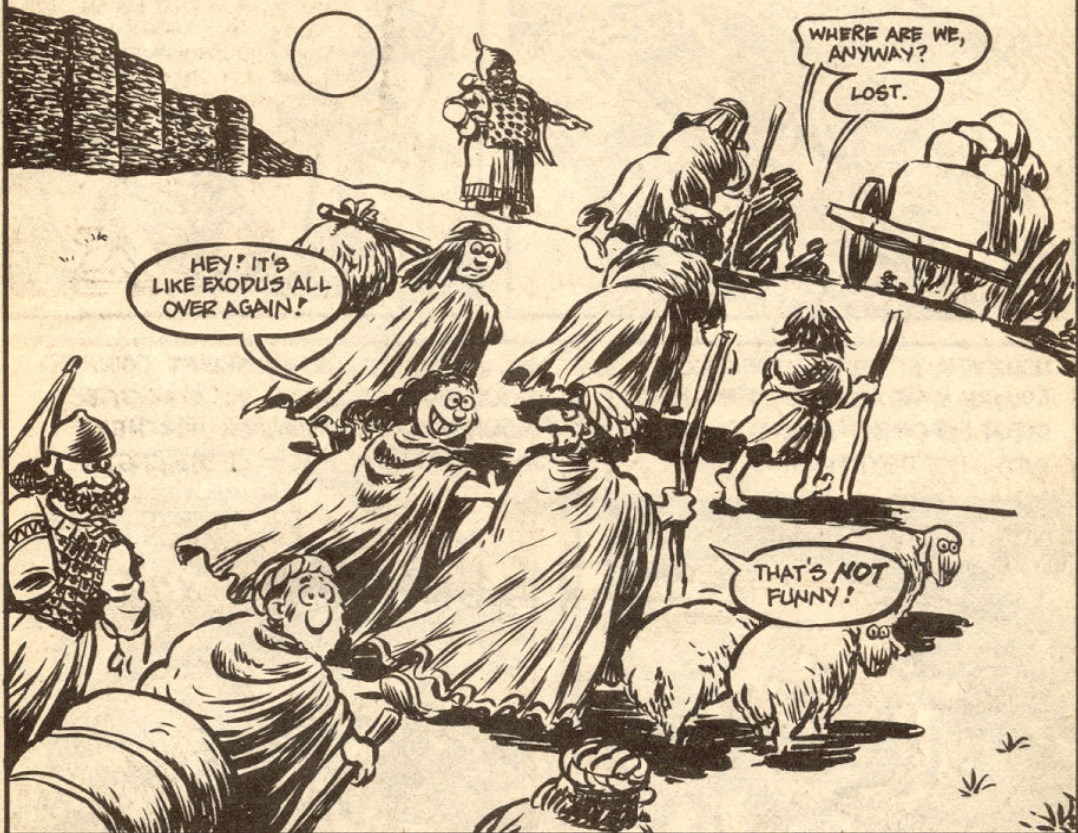


...BUT THE SUDDEN POVERTY SPARKED A REVOLT, AND WITHIN 5 YEARS THE ASSYRIANS CAME BACK TO PUT IT DOWN!





EACH TIME THEY CAME, THE ASSYRIANS MARCHED TENS OF THOUSANDS OF ISRAELITES OUT OF THE COUNTRY, RESETTLING THEM IN NORTHERN ASSYRIA, SOME 900 MILES AWAY. FINALLY, IN 722, B.C., SAMARIA, THE CAPITAL, FELL, 27,290 CITIZENS WERE REMOVED, AND, JUST LIKE THAT, THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL WAS FINISHED. THE DEPORTED POPULATION HAS BECOME KNOWN AS THE **TEN LOST TRIBES OF ISRAEL**.



THE ASSYRIANS REPLACED THEM WITH A SIMILAR NUMBER OF PEOPLE FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE EMPIRE.



THE NEW ARRIVALS COMBINED THEIR OWN RELIGION WITH SOME ISRAELITE IDEAS AND BECAME THE **SAMARITANS**, THE FIRST JEWISH **SECT**. THE PEOPLE OF JUDAH WERE AGHAST!..

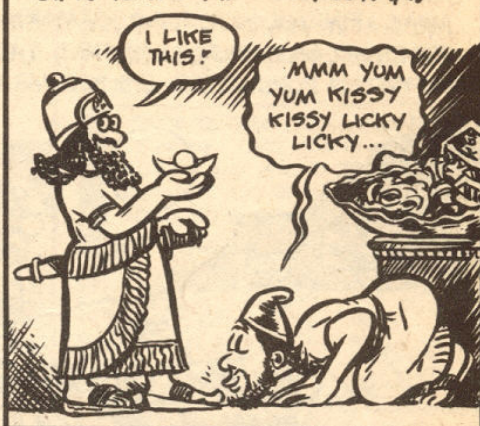




WITNESSING ISRAEL'S DISASTERS FROM NEIGHBORING JUDAH, THE PROPHET **ISAIAH** WROTE, "THE HEART OF HIS PEOPLE [WAS MOVED] AS THE TREES OF THE FOREST ARE MOVED WITH THE WIND."



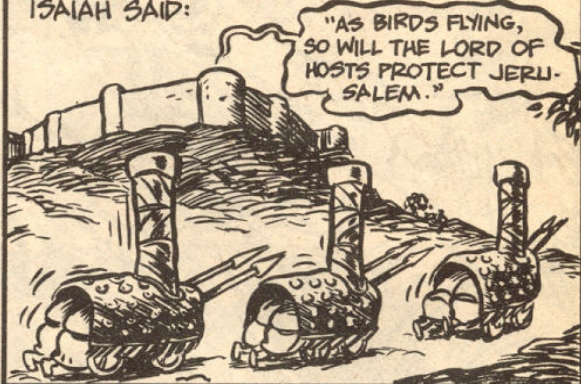
...AND THE KING OF JUDAH GAVE MANY GIFTS TO THE KING OF ASSYRIA."



HOWEVER, AT THE FIRST SIGN OF ASSYRIAN WEAKNESS, THE JUDEAN LEADERS BEGAN PLOTTING WITH THE EGYPTIANS...



...SO, IN 701, B.C., THE ASSYRIANS TRASHED A GOOD PART OF JUDAH, TOOK 200,000 PRISONERS, AND BESEIGED JERUSALEM. ISAIAH SAID:



THE ASSYRIANS WERE STRICKEN BY PLAGUE, LIFTED THE SEIGE, AND JERUSALEM WAS MIRACULOUSLY SAVED, AN EVENT WHICH LEFT A DEEP IMPRESSION.



BY CAREFULLY CHOOSING ITS ALLIES, THE ALL-BUT-RUINED KINGDOM OF JUDAH MANAGED TO SURVIVE ANOTHER 100 YEARS, ACTUALLY OUTLIVING THE ASSYRIAN EMPIRE, WHICH FELL TO THE BABYLONIANS IN 612, B.C.



AND SO IT WAS THE BABYLONIANS, AND NOT THE ASSYRIANS, WHO FINALLY CONQUERED JUDAH. IN 597, B.C., THE EMPIRE-BUILDER **NEBUCHADREZZAR** TOOK JERUSALEM, MARCHED SOME 20,000 OF THE UPPER CLASSES BACK TO BABYLON, AND SET UP A PUPPET PRINCE, **ZEDEKIAH**, TO RULE OVER THOSE WHO REMAINED.



BUT ZEDEKIAH PLOTTED A REVOLT, SO IN 586, "NEBU" CAME BACK AND EXECUTED ZEDEKIAH'S SONS BEFORE HIS EYES.

AI, WHAT COULD BE MORE CRUEL THAN THIS?

YOU'LL SEE—OR RATHER, YOU WON'T...



THEN HE PUT OUT ZEDEKIAH'S EYES, THE LAST VIOLENT ACT OF THIS VOLUME, I PROMISE.

WHERE'D YOU GET THIS IDEA, SIRE?

EVER SEE "THE 3 STODGES GO TO BABYLON?"

YAAA



MANY OF THE REBELS ESCAPED TO EGYPT, WHILE NEBUCHADREZZAR TOOK A FEW THOUSAND MORE CAPTIVES BACK TO BABYLON.





IT WAS ANOTHER 70 YEARS BEFORE THE FAMOUS **HANDWRITING ON THE WALL** FORETOLD THE FREEDOM OF THESE CAPTIVES. STRANGE, ISN'T IT, THAT THEY SHOULD STILL HAVE WORSHIPPED A GOD WHO PROMISED THEM CANAAN, BUT GAVE THEM **BABYLON** INSTEAD ???

WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THIS GRAFFITI!—"MENE MENE TEKEL UPHARSIN"?

HM... PHARSIN...  
PHARSIN... SOMETHIN'  
TO DO WITH **PERSIANS**,  
I GUESS?

BY THE WATERS  
OF BABYLON...

NEXT: THE **SHAH OF IRAN**—  
AND THE GREEKS!!



**DULL!**

THAT'S WHAT MOST  
BOOKS ABOUT THE  
BIBLE ARE."

**BASH  
BASH  
BASH**

WELL-WRITTEN? SOME.  
INFORMATIVE? MANY! CONTRADICTING  
EACH OTHER? MOST! AS GUT-WRENCHING  
AS THE ORIGINAL? NONE!  
NONE! NONE!!

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NOW LET'S SEE IF  
I CAN FIGURE OUT  
THIS GREEK ARMOR...





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